Odds and Ends of Foreign Travel.

by

Geo. E. Morant.

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THE AUTHOR.

ODDS AND ENDS

OF

FOREIGN TRAVEL

BY

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AUTHOR OF
"CHILI AND THE RIVER PLATE IN 1891."

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—

1913.

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED

TO MY FRIEND,

SAML. J. PIPKIN

(Chairman of the Insurance Clerks' Orphanage),

WHOSE UNTIRING AND UNCEASING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF THAT INSTITUTION ARE RECOGNISED AND APPRECIATED BY ALL INTERESTED, AND HAVE SO LARGELY CONTRIBUTED TO ITS SUCCESS.

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PREFACE.

On the occasion of my reading to the Insurance Institute of London a paper entitled "A Trip to Egypt and Ceylon," one of the Vice-Presidents who had himself travelled extensively, made some interesting remarks upon the pleasures of travel and the experience thus to be gained; but there are two sides to the question, and the pleasures are not always unmixed, nor are the experiences gained without occasional troubles and inconvenience. Of course, every year railway and steamboat accommodation improves and extends, communications are easier, and circumstances generally are very different to what they were when I first commenced travelling, now fifty years ago. Then I frequently had to travel by Diligence and Post Carts, and even on the Continent through tickets were not obtainable in many directions, and it was a constant process of changing trains, re-booking and re-registering luggage, to say nothing of Customs' troubles and delays. Sleeping cars were unknown, and I have travelled in the winter in the North of Europe at night, four on a side, and all the passengers in fur-coats, most of them smoking at intervals, and all the windows closed, except when the guard made his periodical trip along the ice-clad footboard, with his lamp hung on to his overcoat, and dropping one window down to examine

the tickets, let the blinding snow or the biting frost in, and thus broke the fetid monotony. Nor did restaurant cars exist, and it was a question of pulling up for meals at certain stations, making a rush for the refreshment room, swallowing hurriedly what you could get, and rushing back to your carriage to make sure that your seat had not been occupied or your belongings removed by someone else in the interval.

Steamboat services and accommodation were then very poor; and, seaworthy as such boats as the *Foam*, the *Samphire*, and the *Maid of Kent* may have been, the passage by one of them between Dover and Calais on a rough night was far from enjoyable; and the pleasure was not enhanced when you had to walk in a pouring rain several hundred yards from the old dock to the old Calais Station.

Once a week there was a steamer from London to Antwerp (the *Baron Osy*), and at similar intervals one to Rotterdam (the *Batavier*), and the latter always carried cattle on the homeward voyage; while the communications with northern ports were equally meagre.

As regards Ocean Steamers the cabins were very different from what they now are; they were lighted by candles in a glass-protected opening in the partition; the bunks were of the old type with wooden laths; the food was sometimes far from appetising, and such things as electric light and electric fans were, of course, unknown.

I mention these few facts to show that those who travel now do so under conditions far superior to those which obtained not so very long ago; but apart from accommodation, there are drawbacks connected with foreign travel which cannot be foreseen, and which may arise now as they have done in the past. Thus, I have several times been quarantined, and I found myself in Chili during the Balmaceda revolution, and in

Japan during the war between that country and China —all of which circumstances, if interesting to think of now, were not altogether pleasant at the time.

On the other hand, however, I have enjoyed lavish hospitality on the Continent and in the Colonies, have made innumerable friends, have had cheerful, if simple, adventures; and provided, as I always have been, with the best of introductions, I have seen many things which would not come in the way of the ordinary tourist, and have obtained valuable information and an insight into the life, manners and habits of many races.

Things are, of course, very different now, the world has been opened up, personally conducted parties are to be found in all directions, a tour round the world is an everyday matter, comfort and convenience are the rule and not the exception, and those who travel on business have only one immediate object in view—the making of money—for there is no longer the same necessity for studying the features of a place or a people, as there was in what I may call the pioneer days of foreign business. But countries themselves are not what they were, for a gradual levelling process has long been going on; except in the Far East, national costumes have practically disappeared or are rapidly disappearing, and on the Continent the classes with whom travellers now come principally into contact, meet them no longer on the same friendly and hospitable terms, but are mainly concerned in what can be got out of them.

The old friendly handshake of the Norwegian is now regulated by the prospect of the "tip" he expects to receive or has secured; the Dutch Boer no longer proffers his tortoise-shell cigar case, the Swiss peasant jodels only for a consideration, and the gemüthlichkeit of the German Biergarten is practically a thing of the past, as far as foreigners are concerned.

With these thoughts running through my mind I have wiled away several spare hours in jotting down from memory and from old notes a few sketches of some of the things I have seen and done. Some of the former are already things of the past, and others are rapidly becoming so; while as to the latter, although they may have interested me they may not be equally interesting to the present day reader. I have nevertheless decided to publish these "Odds and Ends of Foreign Travel," and to devote the profits (if any) of the publication to an Institution connected with the business in which I have passed the greater part of my life, and in connection with which most of the journeys referred to in this book have been undertaken. I refer to the "Insurance Clerks' Orphanage," and if, among those who may have known me in my business life or to whom my name may be familiar, there are any who, in support of a good cause, care to purchase a copy of these reminiscences, I trust that they will do so, even if they do not honour me by reading it.

GEO. C. MORANT.

CANNES,
January 1913.

SAML. J. PIPKIN,

Chairman of the Insurance Clerks' Orphanage.

THE SELAMLIK.

In the month of January, 1912, I was in Nice, and walking along the Avenue Massena, my attention was drawn to the numerous jewellers' shops to be found there, and I wondered who the people might be who purchased some of the articles shown, at the fabulous prices at which they were marked. But I noticed some which were not marked, necklets and other ornaments, of great size and barbaric style, many of them containing almost priceless gems, which had been purchased at a recent sale in Paris of the jewels of the late Sultan of Turkey, Abdul Hamid II., shown merely as specimens, no doubt to be "broken up" (as I believe it is called in the trade) later on and made into shapes and styles more in accordance with Western ideas and pockets.

The sight brought to my mind a visit which I paid to Constantinople accompanied by my wife some twenty-five years previously, when we saw not only the said Abdul Hamid, but also several of the ladies of his harem, some of whom may possibly have worn in their time these same costly and magnificent decorations.

And it came about thus. As is, of course, generally known, it is the practice of the Sultan of Turkey as Caliph, or Head of the Mahommedan faith, to attend publicly at the Mosque every Friday, and it was also his practice to allow foreigners who had the necessary vouchers and obtained an invitation, through the Ambassadors or Ministers of their respective countries,

to be present on the occasion—not, however, in the Mosque, but in a pavilion set apart for their use.

The great event was when he attended the Hamedieh Mosque, in the vicinity of the Yildiz Kiosk; and we were fortunate enough, through the influence of a British resident, to obtain cards for the ceremony there. We were warned that we should have to arrive early, as after a time all the approaches were closed and the district encircled by troops, through which living barrier no one was allowed to pass under any circumstances or upon any excuse.

Accordingly when the day arrived, a landau, of the lumbering type then in use in Constantinople, drawn by a pair of correspondingly massive horses, drew up at the door of our hotel, and our Dragoman having taken charge of the invitation card and also our passport, to serve as a means of identification in case of need, mounted the box, and we drove off in state. It was winter time, and we had had much snow; but on this particular morning it was fairly fine, except for an occasional fall of sleet which was not altogether agreeable. Leaving Pera, we passed through the waterside streets of Galata, ankle deep in slush, and ultimately reached our destination, where we alighted at the door of the Pavilion or Kiosk reserved for the Sultan's guests, as it pleased us to consider ourselves.

In the entrance hall were rows of galoshes and umbrellas; and, having been relieved of overcoats and hats, we were marshalled to the upper floor, where a suite of rooms overlooking the mosque was set apart for those who were to witness the function, and we were lucky enough to obtain seats at one of the principal windows. We had a long while to wait; but tea and coffee were served to beguile the time, which further was passed in conversation by those known to one another, and by observation of what was going on outside by those who had no friends or acquaintances present.

We, however, knew several who were present on the occasion, and among them a Baronet and his lady, who were staying at the same hotel, and also a young Japanese military officer (Captain Fukushima), with whom I had had several interesting conversations, and of whom I was destined to know more many years afterwards.

As we sat at our window regiment after regiment of infantry arrived or passed by, wearing knitted gloves of a bright green colour, and accompanied by their bands playing somewhat pathetic, but excellent, music, in which cymbals and bells carried on short poles ornamented with tassels played an important part; and when the foot soldiers had taken up their positions, a fine regiment of cavalry appeared, mounted on beautiful grey Arab chargers. I was told that this regiment was in some way connected with the German Emperor, but whether it was raised in commemoration of a visit of that august personage, or whether he had equipped it or presented the horses, or in some other way contributed to its existence, I did not clearly understand; for the best of Dragomans are not always very clear in their explanations in a foreign tongue.

The whole district, the Mosque and the adjacent grounds were now surrounded by troops, while in the open space between the Pavilion where we were sitting and the Mosque opposite, more than a hundred officers of the highest rank were stationed about ten feet apart, and in three rows. They were sedate, fine-looking men, but many of them so old, and several so infirm, that they would have been much better at home or even in bed than standing there for more than an hour in the drizzling sleet; but their smart uniforms and decorations gave colour to the scene, and the Sultan was not the man to trouble himself about their inconvenience, or to study their health or inclinations.

Facing us was the Mosque, standing in its own ground surrounded by railings, and on the other side of these

three broughams gradually took up their position, containing ladies of the harem, covered by the very flimsiest of yashmaks, and principally remarkable for the way in which they had been fattened up to fit them for the position which they were doomed to occupy. The horses were taken out of the carriages and led away, so that it was evident the ladies had a long wait before them—but they beguiled the time by looking at the officers, and we had a capital opportunity to study them.

At the side of each carriage stood a eunuch; but whether as a guard or to see that they did not misbehave themselves, I could not learn.

Adjacent to the Mosque was a covered band-stand, in which very delectable music was from time to time discoursed by one or other of the military bands, and altogether the scene in bright weather would have been a most agreeable and interesting one; but it was slightly marred on this occasion by the sleet, and the ladies in the carriages and visitors in the Pavilion had the most comfortable quarters.

At length, after an interminable wait, the officers in the foreground drew their swords and stood at the salute, the various regiments presented arms, the band struck up what was, I assumed, the National Anthem, and from the palace gates there came a barouche drawn by two magnificent Arab steeds, driven by a coachman in a gorgeous livery of red velvet and gold trimmings with a sort of Zouave cap to match; while on the footboard at the back stood two footmen in equally rich garments.

In the barouche itself sat the Sultan in a plain long black frock coat, with a single decoration on his chest and a red fez upon his head—and if we had not known who he was and had seen him elsewhere, we should undoubtedly have taken him for a somewhat low-class Jew, for his features were of a decidedly inferior Hebrew type, and we could not find a refined or redeeming feature in his expression—indeed, he might be said to be almost expression-

less. My wife christened him the "Old clo' man" on the spot, and he has been known to us ever since by this appellation.

The carriage was driven into the courtyard of the Mosque, but not to the principal entrance, for there is a small door on the left reserved for the special and sole use of the Caliph, and here on a platform at the level of the carriage door he alighted on a sacred carpet, and entered the building. The door was closed, the troops stood at ease, the officers sheathed their swords, the ladies surveyed the scene, and the guests in the Pavilion took refreshments, while the Sultan alone in the Mosque with the officiating clergy went through the prescribed ritual.

After an interval of about twenty minutes he reappeared at the doorway, saluted those present in Turkish fashion, and entered a large phaeton drawn by a pair of cream-coloured Arabian horses, which had taken the place of the barouche. The band struck up, the soldiery gave a shout, and the Sultan took his seat in the vehicle without attendant of any kind, and drove himself out of the courtyard of the Mosque and into the gates of the palace, bowing occasionally, but looking all the while the picture of misery and fear, although the reason for driving himself was to show his confidence in his people—but what he had to fear, and why he should want to show his confidence was unintelligible to me, when I looked round and saw the whole district encircled by the military, and only his staff officers about him.

And so ended the Selamlik. After the ceremony the Sultan sometimes receives distinguished visitors or Ambassadors in the Yildiz Kiosk; but as we were neither the one nor the other, we waited until the soldiers had dispersed, well pleased to have seen a ceremony, which under the new regime has now passed into desuetude, and will in future be only a memory.

A MAD VILLAGE.

My travels, whether on business or pleasure, have usually been agreeable, even when some of the incidents have been exciting or to a certain extent dangerous, or at least unpleasant or inconvenient; but occasionally I have had to face painful and even sad circumstances, as in the case to which I am now about to refer.

The proprietor of a certain hotel in the South of Germany, was informed one morning that one of his guests was behaving in an extraordinary manner in the dining room, and proceeding thither he found that the gentleman in question was an old and esteemed frequenter of his house, whose usual demeanour was most circumspect and quiet. The landlord was at a loss to understand the circumstances which now came under his notice; but he managed to coax his guest away to his own room and promptly despatched a messenger to the gentleman's brother, an influential resident of the town, suggesting that he should come round without delay, and bring a doctor with him.

The brother and the doctor came, and upon the advice of the latter the guest was promptly removed, it being evident that from some cause, then unknown to them, his reason had become affected. Enquiries were, of course, made, but the hotel porter was the only one who could throw any light upon the subject; and he stated that on the previous evening, Mr. X had gone out for a walk, and had not returned until late at

night, escorted by two soldiers, to whom he gave money, thanking them for their services, and wishing them " good night."

" I noticed," said the porter, " that he was covered with mud which had apparently been roughly scraped off, and assuming he had met with some accident I asked if I should brush him down, or if there was anything I could do for him or get for him. He thanked me, replied in the negative, and went off to his room."

A clue being afforded by the presence of the soldiers, enquiries were made at the Barracks, when it transpired that a report had been made by two men that on the previous evening, when walking along some earthworks on their way to their quarters, they heard some sound apparently coming from the ditch below. They had a lantern with them, though why they had it or whether they were on duty or not I do not know ; but they stated that they crept cautiously down the bank, and guided by the sounds, found a man struggling in the mud, in which he had already sunk nearly up to his waist. With great difficulty they succeeded in extricating him, dragged him up the bank, rubbed the mud off his clothing as well as they could with some rough grass ; and having learned from him the name of the hotel at which he was staying escorted him there, as in the darkness and in the state in which he was, he never could have found his way unaided.

From this it was assumed that Mr. X, having gone for a walk on the embankment, went too far, was overtaken by the darkness, missed his footing, slipped down into the ditch, and probably sank deeper and deeper in the mire the more he struggled to get out. This in any case is the only solution available, for Mr. X himself was never able to give any explanation of the circumstances.

The result, however, was that he lost his reason, and although it was at first hoped and believed that he might recover from the effects of the shock, it soon became evident that they were more serious than was anticipated.

I was at the time in intimate business relations with him, and the absence of his signature from correspondence after a while aroused my suspicions that although it had been reported that he was seriously ill, his condition was in some way worse than was stated, and I accordingly paid a visit to the city in which he resided, where I learned the details which I have given.

Hoping for the best I made arrangements for the carrying on of the business temporarily, and several times went over to Germany to deal with questions which arose, until at length I came to the conclusion that something definite would have to be done.

In the meantime he had been removed to an asylum, and more or less reassuring reports had been received; but his relations, who were naturally even more anxious than I was to know his actual condition, suggested to me that before making any change in business arrangements I should visit the asylum and make personal enquiries of the doctor on the spot.

I accordingly wrote to the latter, explained my connection with the case, and how important my decision would be to his patient, and asked him to grant me an interview; which he very courteously did.

When this was made known to the family, Mrs. X (for my friend was a married man) expressed her determination to go with me so that she might, as she said, see him and judge for herself. This was an unexpected and most embarrassing development, for the visit involved a whole day's travelling, and, apart from the fact that I had never been considered a lady's man, the

company of a sorrowing wife under such painful circumstances was an item in the programme for which I had not bargained. Moreover, I had not asked the doctor to allow me to bring the lady with me, and I felt that he might look upon it as an intrusion and a liberty which might prejudice my own communication with him. Her relatives quite shared this view with me, joined in trying to dissuade her from going, and we thought we had succeeded; but when I arrived at the station early the next morning she was waiting there to accompany me.

Under the circumstances there was nothing to be done but to make the best of a bad job, and live in hopes that no difficulties would arise.

The journey was anything but a pleasant one from the point of view of conversation, as my companion had but one topic; and when after a run of several hours we reached the station at which we had to change on to a branch line, she had no appetite for luncheon, and I began to fear as to the ultimate results of the expedition, as far as she was concerned.

At length we reached the small country station at which we had to alight, and there found a carriage and pair awaiting my arrival. A drive of several miles followed, through a flat and uninteresting country, sparsely inhabited and depressing in its nature. Here and there we passed a farm-house, with its typical barn on the lintel of which a text or motto relating to husbandry or harvest was inscribed in bold old German characters, and at last we approached the village for which we were bound. But I looked in vain for a building having the appearance of an asylum, and was wondering where it could be or whether there was some mistake somewhere, when the carriage pulled up at an ordinary dwelling house of somewhat larger dimension than the adjacent buildings, such as might at home be the

residence of the vicar, the doctor, or some other local dignitary.

The door was opened; in reply to my enquiry I learned that the doctor was at home and expecting me, and we were shown into a drawing room, in which sat a lady who at once entered into an animated and voluble conversation with Mrs. X. The room had a French window opening into a garden filled with flower borders and shady nooks, indeed more like an English garden than any I have seen in Germany.

The doctor did not keep me waiting, but he looked somewhat annoyed when I introduced Mrs. X, and explained in a few words why she had accompanied me. Speaking to the voluble lady he told, rather than asked, her to take Mrs. X out into the garden and show her the flowers, and Mrs. X was, I think, already too much overawed to raise any objection.

As soon as the ladies had left us he said how sorry he was that Mrs. X had come, as under no circumstances could he allow her to see her husband; but, fortunately, he realised my position in the matter, and also the feelings by which she had been prompted; and we commenced our conversation upon the subject which had brought me to him. Into the details of this there is no necessity to enter, suffice it to say that he gave me the information which I desired and upon which I was able to act.

"But where, Doctor, is your Asylum?" I asked him.

"Where?" he replied, "why here, this house, this village is my Asylum, the lady who has gone into the garden is one of my patients, who is progressing favourably and has come to spend the afternoon and take coffee with my wife. You will have noticed that beside the driver of the carriage which brought you from the station, sat a young man. He also is one of my patients, and

sometimes rather refractory, but I thought a drive would do him good, so I sent him down to meet you."

I do not know whether I looked alarmed or surprised at the possible risk which we had run; but he continued:

"You need not have been in any way alarmed by his company; for the driver is one of my attendants (in other words, a keeper), and a very powerful man, and the horses are very quiet and steady; had the necessity arisen he would have pulled up, thrown his reins on the horses' backs and have done what might have been necessary."

I had become much interested, and the doctor very kindly explained his system and arrangements to me at some length.

With the exception of a few outlying buildings, the whole village was practically his property, even to the Inn; and his system was that patients came as if to a health resort and were distributed among the various cottages as if apartments had been taken for them. This distribution was, however, arranged by him according to the features of each particular case, and the cottagers who received the visitors were really his own employees, trained attendants and nurses, married and single, who, while ostensibly villagers letting their rooms and providing board, were acting in all matters under the doctor's instructions and orders. Most of the cottages had porches with seats in them, in which in fine weather the patients sat and dozed or read, if allowed to do so; and all of them had more or less secluded and pleasant gardens, in which they could stroll or sit, while the cottager, with his eye upon them, busied himself with gardening operations, many of them, I fear, of a perfunctory character.

The doctor's idea was that the patients should not feel they were under any restraint, but rather that they

were spending a restful holiday in a peaceful and healthy village, as a means of recovery from some temporary illness or affection, always under his charge and medical advice, as if he were merely a local practitioner attending them in the ordinary way.

He made his rounds, visiting and prescribing for them as if this were the case; but always with his weather eye open and acting upon the reports of his assistants, who, while apparently engaged in other vocations, were really always watching the patients entrusted to their charge, and carrying out the orders which they had received, according to the special features of each case. For although supposed to be suffering from temporary ailments, recovering from various maladies, nervous breakdowns, or what not, or undergoing rest cures or kindred treatments, the visitors staying in the village were really all more or less demented, and many of them undoubtedly mad.

The great point of the doctor's system, as I understood it, was to make the patients his friends, trying as I have already said to prevent them from thinking they were in any way under restraint, and all the time going among them, diagnosing each particular case, and adopting such measures as seemed to him most suitable to each. In cases showing signs of improvement he sought gradually to bring them back into touch with ordinary life, by such means as asking them to spend an afternoon or take a meal at his house as in the case of the lady we met there, or giving them a little relaxation as in that of the young man who met us at the station.

I gathered that one of his great difficulties was correspondence, well-meaning but injudicious relatives and friends frequently writing letters to the patients which he had to keep back, for none reached them which had not been opened and carefully perused by him, so that no casual remark as to health or other

circumstances might give rise to mental worry or excitement.

These and other details interested me very much, and I should have liked to have had some information upon other points, such as what happened if a patient was beyond recovery or developed homicidal or suicidal tendencies, and where the refractory and dangerous patients were lodged; but I could not trespass too much upon either his time or his courtesy, and upon such points, therefore, I had to form my own conclusions.

The carrying on of such an undertaking must have been a great strain upon the chief administrator, however ably supported by his assistants, both medical and general; but the principle involved seemed to me from many points of view worthy of imitation. I have since learned that there are institutions of the kind in other parts of Germany and in Belgium, and there may possibly be some in other parts of Europe; but I wondered then, as I have frequently wondered since, whether there are any in Great Britain, and if not, why not?

It is now more than a quarter of century since the incident I have related occurred, or I should not have ventured to refer to it. My friend died very soon after my visit, his widow married again some time afterwards, the earthworks and ditch which brought about the disaster have long since disappeared, and have been replaced by magnificent modern fortifications; but the Institution, I believe, still exists, for a few years ago when in Germany I mentioned it incidentally in conversation and found that it was well known.

By this time, however, it has probably assumed much more important dimensions, and thereby lost much of its original simplicity and its primitive character; but in my own mind it will always remain as I have described it in the title of this Chapter, "A mad village!"

A NIGHT OUT.

MANY years ago I had occasion to visit the Gulf of Bothnia and to call at the principal towns on its Swedish coast and in the Ångerman River, one of the most beautiful of its many tributaries.

Through the influence of an English friend living in Sweden, who accompanied me in the cruise, I was able to charter for the purpose a small steamer named the *Mon* (which means and is pronounced "Moon"). I do not know its tonnage, but its passenger accommodation was limited though comfortable, and consisted of a small saloon with three bunks; and in addition to this there was a forecastle cabin where the crew, consisting of an engineer and a seaman, found quarters; another cabin forward, where the Captain's wife (who acted as caterer, stewardess and cook), and her assistant, a young girl rejoicing in the romantic name of Elvira, were installed; a galley, and a navigating room, in which latter I believe the Captain slept on this occasion, in order to accommodate Elvira.

In addition to my English friend and myself, our party included a New Zealander who had travelled widely, and was understood to be what is known as a "very good sailor"; but the Gulf of Bothnia was too much for him, and when the *Mon* jumped about like a cork on the water, as she frequently did, he retired to the navigating room and availed himself of the Captain's couch; ostensibly because he found the air rather chilly; but, from his changes in colour and other symptoms, the real reason was to be found elsewhere—and the navigating room was conveniently amidships.

It may seem strange to those who have not travelled in Sweden, that we should have had two women to wait upon us instead of a steward; but even in the best and largest passenger steamers in Scandinavia, such an official as a steward is unknown, his place being invariably taken by a stewardess, in the same way that in Sweden the bath attendants are always women; and in many barbers' shops they ply the razor, and are preferred to men.

No inference of immorality is to be drawn from these facts, for in the case of the baths the women are mostly old widows, who are thus able to earn a living, while as regards the stewardesses and the barbers, although perhaps their calling makes them a little more free with the opposite sex, their behaviour is, as far as I have seen, irreproachable, while they are far more attentive and considerate in the services they render.

While upon this subject I may add that, long before women were so generally employed in offices in England, they were similarly engaged in Stockholm and elsewhere in Sweden, and frequently held most responsible positions as book-keepers and cashiers, while men in the same offices filled comparatively subordinate posts.

I am of an enquiring mind, and from what I have been told the real reason for this was to be found in the fact that many men were too much addicted to "strong waters," and, as a merchant in Finland said to me, "they are more useful out of doors, on the quays, in the docks, and in other directions where women could not be employed, as the fresh air does them good in the morning."

This, however, is a digression; and coming back to our cruise, I may say that it was most enjoyable to anyone who could put up with a little inconvenience, a somewhat restricted cuisine, and a fair amount of tossing about. It was the middle of summer, and the nights were quite light—though not so light as day, as

is frequently said—while the cloud effects were simply marvellous. I remember that one night the heavens were flecked with innumerable clouds of a pale green colour, an effect which I had never seen before, and the cause of which I could not understand.

At night we anchored in small bays, and on the first occasion our New Zealander injudiciously lighted the lamp, because it was rather gloomy in the saloon, and he wanted to read. The result was that mosquitos swarmed in in battalions, and we had to vacate our bunks, and lie under our mattresses on the floor as the only way of escaping their attacks, much to the amusement of Elvira, who came in shortly afterwards.

On another evening when in the Ångerman River we anchored at a spot said to be noted for its grayling, and being desirous of tasting them, we rowed about for some time trailing an apparatus consisting of nine rough wooden floats, and a corresponding number of hooks hanging below them, which I believe is known as a "Devil," and which elsewhere would, it seemed to me, be regarded as part of a poacher's equipment.

We were not, however, very successful, for we only secured one fish, as we admitted with shame and disappointment, when hailed from the steamer on our return by our good cook and caterer.

"Ah!" said she, "I am a better fisherman than you, or you would have no supper to-night—see what I have caught while you have been away!" and she held up by the tail a magnificent salmon of some 20 lbs. in weight, which she had obtained from a neighbouring fishing station; for there are some beautiful salmon in the Ångermanelf, beautiful, not only in appearance but also in flavour, as we were soon destined to experience.

But our cruise approached its close only too soon, for I had undertaken that the *Mon* should be returned

to Sundsvall by a given day, our intention being to proceed by rail to the more southern ports of Hudiksvall, Söderham, and Gefle; and accordingly about midnight on the day in question we made fast at Sundsvall's quay.

Practically the quay, the railway station, and certain out-lying buildings were, as far as we could see, all that represented Sundsvall at that moment; for the town had been destroyed by a conflagration, and, therefore, the first question that arose was where we were going to pass the night.

A merchant who had secured as a temporary dwelling and office a covered railway truck, which stood upon the line running along the quay, kindly offered us the hospitality of his shelter; but, as he had evidently been imbibing rather freely, we thought it best to decline his offer with thanks; and we enquired of two boys who were standing about homeless, whether they knew of any place where we could get beds. They replied that they did, as "Tivoli" was not quite full; and we at once started them off for definite information, meantime keeping the *Mon* at her moorings, in case, after all, we should have to pass another night on board.

"Tivoli" was a place of public resort outside the town, much frequented for dinners and festivities, for the Swedes are a pleasure-loving people, and most, even of the smaller, towns are provided with establishments of the kind; while those who know Stockholm and Gothenburg will recall "Hasselbackens" in the Djurgården at the former place, and the "Trädgård" at the latter.

Time went on and the boys did not return, and we were seriously thinking of re-embarking and keeping the *Mon* until the next morning, when they put in an appearance, breathless with haste, and informed us that no accommodation was to be obtained at "Tivoli," so

they had gone on to "Rollo's," another resort of the same kind at the other side of the town, which, being in its own extensive grounds, had also escaped destruction. Here they were more fortunate, as the proprietor told them he could put up three persons, provided they arrived within half an hour or so. No time was therefore to be lost; we bade adieu to the Captain, his wife and crew, and discharged the vessel; the boys shouldered our bags (for we were not encumbered with much luggage), and away we trudged through the ruins of the town.

A timber-built town which has been destroyed by a conflagration is always a somewhat depressing and sad sight; but by day there is at least some life about, the burnt-out inhabitants wandering among the debris trying to recognise the location of their houses, or having located them, turning over the ashes in search of possible salvage or mourned household gods, and others trying to find something of value which need not necessarily belong to them. By night, however, the sight is particularly weird; the roadways are there, and have usually been to a certain extent cleared, but it is exceedingly difficult even for those who know the place well to find their way. For there are no familiar buildings as landmarks, and from the ruins on all sides rise the brick chimney-stacks, which almost invariably remain standing, and which give one the impression of ghostly sentinels keeping guard over the place; while the entire absence of human beings produces a silence which is decidedly uncanny.

By the half-light of a Swedish summer night the roadways of Sundsvall looked like so many white threads running in all directions; but the boys knew their way, and hurrying along, stumbling occasionally over stray pieces of wreckage or heaps of broken crockery or other materials, we at length crossed the

bridge and were soon out of the town and at the door of the house where we expected to find temporary rest.

A bitter disappointment was, however, in store for us; for when, in response to our knocking, the landlord of "Rollo's" appeared, he held up his hands in despair for, as he said, he did not expect three English gentlemen, but thought the enquiries made by the boys were on behalf of some of the homeless townspeople, many of whom were at their wit's end to find shelter. "But," he added, "such accommodation as I have, you are heartily welcome to. There is a vacant bed for two, but there are twenty other people in the same room, and in a second, equally well filled, there is room for one in a bed with another man—a very respectable fellow!"

It did not take us long to decide that we would rather pass the rest of the night (it was then getting on for two o'clock) on the quay, and make the best of it; so we told the boys to shoulder the bags again and made our way, not quite so hurriedly and somewhat disconsolately, back to the waterside.

Our New Zealand friend, who was a man who liked comfort and luxury, and was not able to rough it in any way, while at the same time he suffered from a disordered liver and was of a most irritable and irritating disposition, was quite done up; but we cheered him with the thought that possibly after all we should find the *Mon* still at the quay, in which case we should be all right.

But it was not to be, for when we arrived there she had gone and, although we could see her lying out in the harbour, it was quite impossible to establish communications.

The question then arose what we were to do next. Although we had been told that as soon as a passenger steamer arrived there was a rush by the inhabitants of the town for berths for the night, and that they filled

up immediately, we made efforts to board several of the vessels lying at the quay; but in each case the night watch declined to allow us to pass, there being no accommodation available.

The New Zealander had now quite lost his courage and his temper; he wondered why he had ever been foolish enough to join in such a trip, and why we had been "idiotic" enough to land at a town that was burnt out; his head ached, his feet ached, and he ached all over; and when having grown desperate, we decided to make a final raid on the *Norra Sverige* (if I remember correctly the name of the vessel), he wiped his hands of the whole business and declined to join us—so we left him with the boys, whose services we still retained, in charge of the bags; and my English friend and myself undertook the siege, determined, if nothing else was available, at least to obtain permission to lie down on the deck in some sheltered position.

He spoke Swedish perfectly, and he had no doubt in previous attempts been taken for a native, but he now thought it would be best to mention our nationality as a possible way of exciting sympathy. Having by means of a silver key induced the quartermaster on guard at the gangway to allow us to pass, and to tell us where the cabin of the stewardess was to be found, we made the best of our way thither only to find that she was not in occupation, having doubtless let it for the night to some homeless person, and herself found quarters in another part of the ship, as the guard suggested. He, however, told us in what other direction we had better look, and this time we were more successful; for after knocking at the door of the cabin for some time we were relieved to hear a female voice, although that voice told us to go away and not disturb its owner, as there was no sleeping place vacant in the vessel. Communication, however, having thus been established, my friend eloquently pleaded the cause of

" To olycklicke Engelsmannen " (two unfortunate Englishmen) who had nowhere to lay their heads, only to be rebuked by the voice inside for saying the thing that is not and endeavouring to impose upon her.

It was no doubt very hard upon the poor stewardess, who had probably had a very busy and strenuous time with the numerous applicants for shelter, and deserved a few hours' rest, that we should have so persistently disturbed her ; but we were desperate, and I have read that desperate men know no law. At intervals of a few minutes we knocked, and renewed our entreaties, alternated with a few judicious blandishments likely to appeal to the female heart, and an occasional naughty word, *sotto voce ;* until at last we heard a movement in the cabin, and fearing that by some means its occupant was about to escape I hurried to the top of the saloon staircase, while my friend continued his watch below.

In a few minutes I heard the rustling of garments, and at the foot of the stairway appeared a female with a dressing-gown thrown loosely over her night clothing, and a night-cap on her head, with her tangled hair straggling from beneath it, making her look anything but attractive. She carried in her arms a bundle of blankets, and it at once occurred to me that she was escaping to some other part of the ship, and without delay I called my friend up to the rescue.

But she was not trying to escape after all ! Wearied by our pertinacity, for which she vigorously reproached us, she said it had suddenly occurred to her that the Smoking Room on deck was unoccupied and, as it had two sofas in it, it would just accommodate two persons, so she had brought some coverings for us and we could lie there for the rest of the night (it was now past three o'clock in the morning), but upon the distinct understanding that we would vacate it by eight o'clock as the vessel sailed at nine. Thanking her for her kindness and having received an

assurance from her that she would provide us with some breakfast at half-past seven, we wished her good night and were about to turn in, when we thought of the New Zealander. She seemed to doubt us when we spoke of accommodation for a third person, and was evidently rather cross; but after a little coaxing, she said that the unknown third party could sleep in the Captain's Navigating Room, but that we should have to give him one of the blankets she had provided for us, as she had no more available.

Thankful to have thus found sleeping quarters, my friend went on shore to discharge the boys and bring the New Zealander on board, while I kept watch over the Smoking Room; the boys soon came along with the bags, and were evidently very pleased with the reward they received for their night's services; but the New Zealander was not to be found. He had gone over towards the ruins of the Custom House, the boys said, and they had not seen him since.

He was found in charge of the guard watching the ruins, who suspected him of some sinister design; and as neither of them spoke the other's language, explanation had become difficult; but he was furious at his temporary detention, and more so when he came on board, and was told of the resting place we had found for him. So far from being grateful, he upbraided us with looking after ourselves and placing him in a false position, "For," said he, "if I occupy the Navigating Room the Captain will come along early in the morning, suspect me of attempting to steal his instruments, and probably kick me out."

He absolutely declined to take up his quarters there, so, losing patience with him, we left him to his own devices and went to our own couches. But he evidently thought better of it, as we found him fast asleep there the next morning when we went to rouse him for a cup of hot coffee and a roll.

For the stewardess, faithful to her promise, came at half-past seven with some breakfast, no longer the somewhat bedraggled-looking dame, in the night-cap and tangled locks; but a comely young woman, clean, bright and fresh, profuse in her apologies for having so misjudged us a few hours previously, and as cheerful as a lark, notwithstanding the manner in which her hard-earned night's rest had been disturbed by us.

Thanking her for her hospitality we left the *Norra Sverige*, and once more found ourselves on the quay, and making for the railway station we learned that we had several hours to wait before a train left by which we could get on to Hudiksvall. So we deposited our bags, and made a tour of inspection of the town, and one of the first things I discovered was a wooden shanty bearing the inscription "Bertha Engström—Barber Stuga," being the temporary business premises of an enterprising lady-barber, whose original shop had been burnt. Entering, I found the proprietress and her female assistant both busily engaged upon the faces of customers; and waiting my turn I had my first shave by woman's hands, a marked and agreeable contrast to one I had undergone a few days previously at Hernosand from a male operator with hands like miniature legs of mutton, and breath that smelt all too strongly of the previous night's libations.

Thus refreshed I rejoined my companions; and among other places we visited were the church, or rather its ruins, where at the doorway I picked up and brought away as a souvenir a curious old Swedish padlock, and the "Sundsvalls Enskilda Bank," which being a stone structure standing detached from all other buildings had not been destroyed. It had, however, had a very narrow escape, and its chief book-keeper, a lady, had a still narrower. She went to one of the strong-rooms in the basement to deposit one of the books which had been overlooked in the hurried storage of the Bank's archives, when another official hurrying along

the passage and finding the door ajar pushed it to as he passed. Fortunately her little son was with her, for all the scholars had been released from school earlier in the day when the conflagration was found to be spreading, and he had sought his mother's protection at the Bank. At once realising the danger to which she was exposed, the boy set up a dismal shrieking, which speedily brought assistance ; and equally fortunate was it that she had left the key outside in the lock, as otherwise relief would not have been possible. As it was, the experience must have been a most painful one !

And here I cannot refrain from another short digression upon the subject of the employment of women. It does not seem unreasonable that in the case of a middle-class man having several unmarried daughters, and himself earning only a moderate income, that those daughters should desire in their own interests and those of their parents to either earn their own living, or to be able at least to contribute to the up-keep of the home ; and there are many directions in which, according to their education, capacity or position this can consistently be done.

But the employment of married women is quite a different matter, for it is obvious that no woman can devote the whole of the day to, say, clerical occupation, and at the same time do justice to her housekeeping and domestic duties. I have, however, come across many instances, such as that just referred to, where a married woman, with a family, has contributed very materially to the upkeep of a home—though how and when she devoted herself to the bringing up of her children I fail to understand.

Coming back, however, to our visit to Sundsvall. We saw what there was to be seen, and when we left, our great anxiety was to reach some place where a good square meal was to be obtained ; but beyond that none the worse for our night out !

AN EVENING WITH THE GEISHAS.

The Colonel, the Doctor, and myself, sat outside Yaami's Hotel at Kyoto, enjoying our cigars after lunch, and the conversation turned upon Geishas. The Colonel was making a tour round the world with his son, the Doctor had obtained a few days' leave from the steamer which had brought me from Shanghai to Kobe, and we were all anxious to see what was to be seen in the time at our disposal.

Why we expected it I do not know, but we all anticipated that in the evening an entertainment would be provided by the hotel (at the expense of the guests), much in the same way as in certain parts of Europe troupes of local or imported artistes, arrayed in out-of-date national or fancy costumes, strum guitars, mandolines, or zithers, and sing so-called traditional folk-songs for the benefit of the foreign tripper.

My guide, Morita, happening to put in an appearance at the time I called on him for some information. Now Morita was supposed to be acquainted with both the English and French languages, and he certainly knew more of both than I did of Japanese; but his vocabulary was limited, and his explanations more or less cryptic. We, however, gathered from him that in the spring time Geishas perform in public; but that at other times it was necessary to engage them privately, and further, that as so few people were then staying in the hotel it would be difficult

and also somewhat expensive to engage a troupe for our edification.

" But, gentlemen," continued Morita, "I can arrange this for you, this evening if you like at a very good tea-house, and at a comparatively moderate cost." He did not put it quite so clearly, but we understood him, and as he had been specially recommended to me at Kobe as a reliable and honest man, and as my experience of him so far had verified this description, we gave him carte-blanche and told him to do his best for us.

During the afternoon, while we were out together, my friends having gone in other directions, I asked him to tell me something about the Geisha ; but so much has been written about her in the numerous books on Japan, and the musical comedy bearing this title has made her name, and the supposed circumstances of her life and occupation so familiar, that I rather hesitate to give what I believe to be more authentic particulars.

There are many, however, even among those who have visited Japan who do not realise that she is practically a slave.

She is usually the daughter of peasants, apprenticed (or in other words, sold) when a mere child to the Keeper of a Geisha house, by whom she is trained and educated. She is taught to read and write, to play various instruments, to dance (or rather to posture), and above all, to speak nicely and politely, and to study her personal appearance.

There are schools where these qualifications are taught, and during her early years she is known as a " Meiko," and acts as an understudy and assistant to the matured "Geisha" whom she accompanies to weddings, dinners, and other functions where such entertainers are usually engaged.

At about sixteen years of age she blossoms into a full-blown Geisha, and her career in this direction ends when she has lost her youthful appearance or her good looks, which, I am told, is usually when she is about 25 or 26.

JAPANESE TEA HOUSE.

She is then free to leave or, to put it more correctly, is discharged, when she either marries (if she is lucky), becomes herself the keeper of a Geisha-house (if she can find the necessary capital) or lapses into a so-called "Yujo," or woman of pleasure, which, I believe, is her usual fate.

So much for the natural history of the Geisha, and coming back to Yaami's Hotel behold our three travellers seated in Jinrikshas and, under the guidance of Morita, on their way to the Tea-house. A drive through Kyoto after dark is much more interesting than one at any of the Treaty Ports, such as Yokohama or Kobe, where there is much that is semi-European, or at Tokio with its tramways, palatial buildings and western veneer; for Kyoto is essentially a Japanese town, and its diminutive buildings, coloured lamps, quiet streets, where horse or mechanical traffic is unknown (or, at least was, when I visited it) and only the riksha threads its way among the picturesque population, make up a scene never to be forgotten.

The Tea-house was at some distance from the hotel, and we had, consequently, an opportunity of noticing these and many other interesting and unfamiliar features of the town and its inhabitants.

On our arrival at our destination we left our overcoats, hats and boots in the entrance hall, if I may so call it; and were conducted up the staircase by some of the female attendants—the staircase, I may mention, had no balustrade, so that the ascent was somewhat uncanny, and to those unaccustomed to such modes of construction the side nearest the wall appeared the safer.

On reaching the upper floor we were ushered into a large room devoid of furniture, but covered with the usual mats, while at the window end a rug had been laid down on which were several cushions about two feet square, on which we were supposed to sit, or rather to squat. The constrained position was, however, far from comfortable

for the uninitiated, and ultimately three chairs were provided for our accommodation.

Brass "hibachis" were provided so that we might keep our hands warm, and the room was lighted by candles (requiring frequent snuffing) in four tall candlesticks standing on the floor.

The first arrival was a woman of middle age with lips dyed with henna, showing that she was married—this was evidently the mistress of the house, and after she had taken up her position on the floor, an attendant placed in front of her a row of cups and the usual appliances for making tea.

She was followed almost immediately by three samisen-players, who squatted on a rug at our left, and began to tune their instruments, and when this had been accomplished, four Geishas made their appearance, two apparently about 18 or 20 years of age, the others younger, one of them indeed being quite a child.

After the customary prostrations and salutations "Komban wa" (Good evening) and "Irasshaimashi" (You are welcome), the hostess, if I may so call her, clapped her hands and a "wesan" (waitress) brought in the "O cha," or honourable tea, which alternated with "saki," or rice spirit, we imbibed at intervals during the evening.

The samisen-players commenced the proceedings with a monotonous dirge-like chant, nasal and jerky, and one of the Geishas stepped into the centre of the room and began a so-called dance, emblematical of the fall of the maple leaves. It really was not dancing at all, as we understand the word, but largely fan-action and posturing; but it was decidedly graceful and was taken by everyone very seriously, and in the subdued light and to the weird accompaniment of the instrumentalists, there was in this, as in most things of Japan, at the time, an inexplicable glamour which fascinated the audience, all of whom were witnessing a performance of the kind for the first time.

While the performer was going through her posturing, the hem (being a mere man, I am not sure if this is the correct name for the bottom of a skirt) of her long, beautifully-embroidered and highly-coloured " kimono " lay in rolls on the floor, and one saw scarcely anything of her feet.

All the girls wore bright coloured materials and elaborate sashes (" obi "), the dresses on this occasion being in various tints of brown, bronze, red and yellow—emblematical of the fall of the leaf—for their costumes vary according to the season of the year, and the flowers or leaves then prevalent. Their hair was elaborately coiffured and pomaded, and was decorated, in addition to the usual large pins, with tassels and bead ornaments and ribbons to match their kimonos.

When our friend of the maple leaves had finished her terpsichorean effort she made her obeisance by kneeling and touching the mats with her forehead, while the samisen-players continued their twanging and their monotonous nasal chant ; and another girl then stepped forward and gave us a dance typical of the gathering of peonies—though where the peonies came in was not quite clear to me.

This was followed by a performance on drums with samisen accompaniment. One girl played with very heavy drumsticks on a kind of side-drum raised a few inches from the floor and sloped towards the performer, while another had two drums, like gigantic hour-glasses in shape, highly decorated with coloured wools. The larger of the two was laid in her lap and the smaller held by the left hand on the right shoulder ; and both were beaten in turns by the right hand and gave out a wooden and tum-tummy sort of sound.

At intervals the samisen-players chanted a few bars, and every now and then the drummer gave utterance, in a high key, to plaintive, squeaky little notes which sounded like " Ah-We." The player of the side-drum was most

sedate and deliberate, and came in with unerring accuracy at certain regular intervals, readily recognised after a few minutes' performance.

And now came the *pièce de résistance,* representing the war between Japan and China, which was at the time proceeding, and it is needless to say that China played in this, as in the reality, a very poor *rôle.*

The four Geishas took part in this performance in which no fans were used, the hands being employed in simulation of shooting, sword-play, blowing trumpets, beating drums, cutting off heads and other characteristic incidents of warfare; while every now and then the samisen-players struck in with "Bom! Bom!" representing the firing of artillery, in voices that would scarcely have frightened the smallest and most timid bird.

At this juncture my guide intimated to us that some refreshment would be acceptable to the ladies, and, on our acquiescence, the "wesan," who had probably been waiting outside the room with the necessary supplies, brought in some large bowls containing various viands, tempting enough to the eye but not to the untutored palate, consisting of omelettes as tough as leather, raw fish, cakes of rice and others of sweetmeats, mostly in squares with garnishings of various colours—all of which were apparently much enjoyed by the performers and were washed down with insipid tea. I did my best to join in the repast, but soon gave it up as a bad job, for to me the food was most unappetising, while the Colonel caused general amusement by trying his hand on the raw fish. The grimaces he made caused roars of laughter, in which the Doctor and myself joined the more heartily when the Senior Geisha said to him in English "I like you very much!" a tea-house observation which with "Please come again" appears to constitute the extent of a Geisha's and Musumé's knowledge of our language.

The meal finished, each girl, including the samisen-

players placed in front of her on the low tables on which the viands had been served, a small decorated card with a conventional design upon it, which Morita said was called a "flower," and was an intimation that it was customary at this juncture to make a small present to each of the performers. This having been done, conversation (interpreted) became general, and one of the party mentioned that he had heard of a dance known as "Jonkina" and would like to see it, which having been interpreted, caused a general titter and apparently much merriment on the part of the girls—repressed, however, somewhat sternly by the hostess.

Morita then explained to us that this dance was now prohibited by law on account of its naughtiness, and that any mistress of a tea-house who allowed it to be performed would be liable to punishment. He added that occasionally the mistress remembered something that required her attention in another part of the house, and consequently did not know what was going on, though she never failed to obtain the extra payment demanded for such a performance. The mistress of this particular tea-house, however, was very strict, and would not allow it.

As we were at the time entirely in the dark as to the nature of this particular dance, the subject was not pressed; but the mistress said she did not object to the modified and modern version being given, and this was accordingly done.

The performance was certainly of a more cheerful character than those which had preceded it, but was essentially childish, and the most interesting part was the vocal accompaniment of the samisen-players. Not understanding the words, and as the movements of the dancers did not convey much to us I am afraid the naughtiness of the thing did not come home to us as it should have done; but as Morita afterwards explained the performance was only a travesty upon the original, which was introduced by Dutch seamen, its name "Jan Kina"

simply meaning " John Chinaman " ; but this was long ago when Japanese morality was more elastic even than at present, and when seafaring men were the only foreigners with whom Geishas were likely to have come into contact.

When a description was given to us of the original dance we did not wonder that it had been prohibited by the Government of " Meiji," but we did wonder that any librettist should have had the temerity to introduce even the name into a musical comedy at home.

The entertainment having now come to a close we departed with the usual salutation " Oitama itashimasho " (I will now take my leave) with " Sayonaro " and " Please come again " in return, and descended to the ground floor ; whence, after amusing attempts on the part of the staff to assist us in putting on our boots we chartered rickshas and " So home to bed," as the old chronicler Pepys would no doubt have written in his diary, had he had an opportunity to attend a function of the kind.

AMONG TURKISH IMMIGRANTS.

The Austrian-Lloyd steamer was lying in Varna Bay, bound for Constantinople, and tickets and berths could only be secured on board; so taking my Dragoman, I proceeded in the course of the morning to the vessel to obtain them. In looking for the Purser I went into the Saloon, where I saw the Captain seated at one of the tables with a piece of canvas spread out, upon which lay a pair of old-fashioned pistols of considerable size, one of which he had evidently furbished up, while the other was in pieces before him, and was undergoing a thorough process of cleaning. He wore a loose uniform jacket and a naval cap, and looked a determined sort of man; but although I exchanged a few words with him I did not mention the pistols, though I wondered what they could be wanted for on such a voyage.

On my return to the jetty I noticed sitting in the shelter of a shed upon it a number of women and children; they were huddled up together for warmth, for there was still snow about and a keen wind was blowing; but they sat calmly and stolidly without any apparent attempt at conversation, and I asked my Dragoman who they were. He replied that they were probably Turkish immigrants, numbers of whom were at the time returning to Stamboul by every boat.

Late in the afternoon we went to the jetty to embark with our luggage. The women and children were still there, but in larger numbers, and the deck was thronged with men getting their families together. The majority of the men were fine, tall and sturdy looking, but they, nevertheless, bore uncomplainingly the offensive and disgraceful treatment

they received at the hands of the Bulgarian officials, whose physique was far inferior. They were pushed, struck and insulted, their water-bottles, invaluable to them in travelling, were broken; and one undersized little Bulgarian official, whose face was scarred with blue patches as if from an explosion of gunpowder, distinguished himself by his brutality over the examination of passports and the identification of families to such an extent that I certainly expected retaliation. But the immigrants bore everything stolidly and without a murmur; and after watching the scene for some time, we embarked on the other side of the jetty with a feeling of increased respect for the Turk and detestation of his hereditary enemies.

In due course we reached the steamer, and having deposited our belongings in the cabin, we went to the poop deck, where we found the Captain, now in full uniform and with the pistols I had seen in the morning ostentatiously displayed in his belt. I did not even then realise why he was thus armed, for I did not know that the Turkish immigrants were to be our fellow passengers; but as boat after boat arrived, and the Captain stood in full view, it was evident that the pistols were intended to overawe the immigrants—though as far as I could see it would have been impossible to have brought together a more peaceable and orderly lot of men. When they had settled with the boatmen, who were as truculent and ruffianly as their congeners on shore, the wretched outcasts made their way to the deck, when a scene occurred which I shall never forget. The officers and seamen of the Austrian steamer were not, it is true, so overbearing as the Bulgarian officials, but they showed scant courtesy to their Mohammedan passengers, and the men were at once separated from their wives and young children, and sent forward to a space which had been roped off for them, and there they had to spend the night as best they could, protected by their rugs.

I had noticed that the fore-hold which was just in front

of the poop deck was open, and into this the women and children were gradually passed. A ladder had been placed in position by means of which they descended; but although the hold proved to be a veritable Avernus, it was by no means a case of *Facilis est descensus Averni.* Encumbered by their voluminous skirts, holding on like grim death to their scanty bundles of black bread and their water-bottles (the only refreshment they would have upon the voyage), and sometimes struggling at the same time to take their babies with them, it was positively painful to see these poor creatures endeavouring to get down the ladder, especially when the status of Mohammedan women was borne in mind, and it was noticed that seamen were waiting below to assist and ultimately arrange them.

Children before long had to be given up, but like their parents they bore their troubles stoically; and there was little of the wailing that would probably have ensued elsewhere under similar conditions.

As the women reached the floor of the hold they were arranged in rows in a sitting position, and the spaces that occurred here and there were afterwards filled up with the children, and when all were seated and the ladder drawn up they put me in mind of tinned sardines. Endeavours were apparently made to place the young children with their mothers, as far as possible; but there were several derelicts in the case of those somewhat older.

These arrangements having been made, the hold was battened down, one hatch being left open for the purpose of ventilation, and over this opening an oil lamp was suspended; and under such conditions the travellers had to make a voyage of 145 miles on the Black Sea at a season of the year when it was far from smooth, while the men were huddled together on deck to sleep as best they could in a temperature approaching freezing point.

After dinner I had a chat with the Captain, and referring to the pistols asked him if such passengers ever gave any

trouble. He replied in the negative, but added that it was always as well to be prepared for emergencies, and to show it. I then ventured to mention the manner in which the women were stowed, and found that in this as in many other cases the question was one of price, and that the nominal sum paid for the passages would not admit of anything better being provided. Although somewhat rough and very determined in manner the captain was not altogether unsympathetic, though perhaps his tone showed some slight animus, common, I fear, among those of a different belief when dealing with the Turks.

I was up and about early on the following morning, as I wanted to see all that was to be seen, and especially the entrance into the Bosphorus and the scenery of that beautiful Strait, and when I reached the poop deck I went forward to see how the women were getting on. I soon retreated, however, for the effluvium which arose from the hold was simply awful. Several of the hatches had been removed, and showed the occupants of the hold, still in rows; but many of them absolutely prostrate, and others with heads bowed down to their knees and in a condition which disclosed only too plainly what they had gone through during that dreadful night, the incidents of which can be better imagined than described. I do not desire ever to see such a sight again!

ENTRANCE TO THE HARBOUR OF ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

A RACE AGAINST TIME.

On Saturday afternoon, the 9th of July, 1892, I was in the grounds of the Earl's Court Exhibition, when a friend passing me enquired if I had seen the early evening papers which reported the entire destruction by fire of the town of St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland. I had not, but I soon bought one, and the news which it contained was confirmed by telegrams which arrived on the following Monday morning.

St. John's had been entirely destroyed, and even the iron safes in the merchants' offices had shared the fate of the buildings which contained them, and business was consequently at an absolute standstill. Under these circumstances it became necessary for me to visit the Colony with as little delay as possible; but the next Canadian Mail Steamer would not sail for another ten days, and in order to save time I decided to go *viâ* the United States. I had only two days to look into the business questions affected and to make the necessary preparations, for I had booked a passage by the next White Star Steamer, and had to leave London the first thing on the Wednesday morning.

To make quite sure of my connections I had cabled to Halifax, Nova Scotia, for dates of sailings to St. John's to be sent to me at New York, to await arrival; and having thus completed my arrangements, I started off on what was destined to be one of the most perverse and unfortunate journeys I have ever taken.

The voyage in the *Majestic* was uneventful; at Queenstown the usual vendors of Irish curios came on board; off

the Old Head of Kinsale we passed the wreck of the *City of Chicago*—a grim reminder of the possibilities of the situation; off the banks of Newfoundland encountered the perennial fog; indulged later on in the excitement of "Pilot pool," and at 10 o'clock on the following Wednesday morning made fast alongside the wharf at New York.

It was half-past ten when I landed, and when soon after eleven o'clock I looked at the newspapers sent to me from Halifax and found that the s.s. *Portia* would sail from that port for St. John's on the following Friday morning, the question arose as to the possibility of my being able to catch it.

Reference to the time tables showed that a quick train left the Central Depot at Forty-Second Street for Boston at mid-day, arriving at the "Hub of the Universe" in time to enable passengers to catch the seven o'clock train to Bangor (Maine), and away we rushed for Forty-Second Street, arriving there just before 12 o'clock. I found my impedimenta in the baggage room, but could not find the Janitor with whom I had left the keys for the purposes of Customs' examination, so ignoring the latter I rapidly checked the former, tore off to get my ticket, got it, rushed for the platform and reached the gate—in time to have it shut in my face and to see my cabin trunk and dispatch box bowling away for the train which I had lost.

Now, one of the delights of United States travel is the absence of anyone to carry anything for you (for "Porters," as we understand them, are unknown officials, and the name is applied—or rather misapplied—to the Conductors of the Cars) and a heavy dressing bag is rather an encumbrance when one is pressed for time; but as immediate enquiry showed that another train for Boston (*viâ* Connecticut) left at three minutes past twelve, we made the best of the situation, and toiling up another long platform took our seats just as it was starting.

I say *we*, for my good friend S—— with his usual

kindness and personal self-sacrifice had decided to see me through Boston and come back by the night train, for as he very pertinently said, it was *just possible* for one who knew the ropes to overtake the 7 o'clock out of Boston, but an absolute *impossibility* for a stranger to do so.

Just after 6.30 we arrived at our destination, a double fare induced the cab driver to accelerate his usual pace, and at five minutes to seven we reached the other station. How, having discovered my luggage, we succeededby means of silver inducements in securing it in time to have it thrown into the van, and how, finding that every sleeping-berth was taken, I took the " drawing room " for my own personal use and rose somewhat, in consequence, in the opinion of the coloured porter, who pulled me in as the train started, are details into which I need not enter. I was again *en route,* and had hopes of reaching my destination without mishap.

Alas, however, my hopes soon sank, for an hour after leaving Boston the engine broke down, and a delay of about two hours occurred before it could be replaced, and as time was not made up we were late to that extent in arriving next morning at Bangor in the State of Maine.

A hurried breakfast, a rush for the train to Vanceboro' (New Brunswick), and a journey of many hours in the company of lumbermen (no doubt highly respectable men of their class) who put their feet, in heavily spiked boots, on the tables and expectorated at random, regardless of consequences. For this was an ordinary train, consisting of two cars only, both packed full ; and not knowing the idiosyncracies of the native races, I unfortunately chose the Smoking Car.

More time lost before we reached Vanceboro', and the passengers by the Grand Trunk train (which had been kept waiting for our arrival) fretting and worrying and rather inclined to be rude to the new-comers who had been the innocent cause of their detention ; but again I had

succeeded in making the necessary connection, and this time I felt safe, for the train would go through to Halifax, and I had no more changes to make.

It was a relief too to travel in a comfortable and well-furnished car and to be able to take one's meals on the road, although as the route of the train before it reached Vanceboro' lay through the temperance State of Maine, no beverage stronger than lemonade was obtainable. I, however, met with some pleasant, well-informed, and interesting fellow passengers, and the time passed agreeably enough, until as the evening advanced they gradually alighted at various stations, and I was left the solitary occupant of my particular car, and almost of the train.

Time had been lost all along the road, and it was 1 a.m. on the Friday before we reached Halifax, two hours late, and a very inconvenient hour to arrive at an unknown place, especially in this part of the world where conditions generally differ materially from those to which one is accustomed in Europe. The station was only dimly lighted, there were apparently no porters on duty, one solitary cab (which I fortunately secured) stood in the yard, and the surroundings were as depressing as it is possible to imagine; while to make matters worse, when I found the baggage office and entered to clear my luggage, I learned that it had not arrived, which to me was a serious matter as my dispatch box contained all my business papers, without which I might as well have stayed at home. Now, having had some experience of travelling, I am in the habit of keeping my eye upon my luggage, if possible, even though it be registered or "checked," as they call it on the other side of the Atlantic, and I had seen both trunk and dispatch box transferred at Vanceboro', so that I was at a loss to understand their non-appearance. The Customs' Clerk, however, solaced me by saying that Halifax luggage was frequently put out by mistake at St. John, New Brunswick, and sent on the next day, which was but poor comfort when one has to start on a

sea-voyage early the following morning, and probably before it could arrive.

Fortunately a room had been reserved for me at the Hotel, or I might have had to spend the remainder of the night in the street or have chartered the cab as a shelter; but I did not get in without trouble and delay; and it was getting on for 3 o'clock when I turned in for a fitful rest of four hours, for I was up again at 7 o'clock, and immediately after breakfast sought the offices of the Red Cross Line to book my passage by the s.s. *Portia*. But the vessel had not arrived, and in answer to enquiries I learned that she was not expected until the next day (Saturday), that they never cleared on a Sunday, and that it would probably be the following Monday afternoon or possibly Tuesday morning before she sailed.

This information certainly eased my mind as regards my luggage, but it was disappointing to have my progress retarded after getting thus far at considerable inconvenience and personal discomfort. However, I went to the station for my luggage, which arrived in the course of the morning; but a new difficulty arose, for I had not the key of my cabin trunk, and I should not have cared to continue my journey with a broken lock. I explained all the circumstances to the Customs' officer, and he kindly passed the trunk without examination—a convenient locksmith picked the lock and provided a new key, and I was again ready to proceed.

Incidentally I may mention that the keys which I had left with the Janitor in New York did not reach Newfoundland until after my departure thence; that they subsequently followed me through Canada, and did not again come into my possession until my return to New York many weeks later, so they might just as well have remained there all the time!

The *Portia* not being forthcoming and my business being so urgent, I decided, if possible, to charter a steamer on my own account; but I found that there were only

two available—one a pleasure steamer which plied in the Bay only and was not capable of making a voyage across the banks of Newfoundland, and the other a tug which could not stow enough coal for such a voyage; so again I was nonplussed!

But in the course of my enquiries I had learned that a Government steamer was leaving the same afternoon for St. John's with a relief party of Royal Engineers, and a supply of stores and tents, so I obtained an introduction to the Relief Committee and explaining my position and my business, sought permission to proceed by her as a passenger. The answer was that the Government had given strict instructions that no passengers were to be taken, and that consequently they could not meet my wishes.

I was now practically at my wit's end in the matter, but nothing daunted I sought further assistance with a view to obtaining a reversal of the decision. A member of the Relief Committee to whom I had been personally introduced regretted that this was impossible; but startled me somewhat by saying, "Why not go as a stowaway?" This certainly had not occurred to me, and bearing in mind what I had read of the treatment sometimes meted out to those travelling in this capacity, the scheme seemed to me to be fraught with some degree of danger; but I was determined to get across, and after some consideration decided to act upon the suggestion.

I had read of stowaways concealing themselves in cabins, among the cargo or even in coal bunkers; but such methods did not recommend themselves to me, and, moreover, these stowaways had no luggage with them, while without my luggage and the papers which it contained, it would have been useless for me to proceed. So I decided to carry out my plan in an open, indeed, I may say, a barefaced manner. I packed my dispatch box into my trunk, and sent the latter to the steamer by a man with instructions to put it down in a conspicuous position

on the deck and leave it; as I assumed that, if noticed at all, it would be taken as part of the shipment, and as nobody on board knew me and could not know whether there was anyone of the name in St. John's, it would excite no suspicion.

I then walked down to the quay at which the vessel was loading, and, as nonchalantly as I could, strolled about, smoking a cigar, until the loading was nearly completed. All was excitement on board, and there were so many persons coming and going that I thought one more would pass unnoticed, so I went down the gangway, found my trunk deposited in a quiet corner, and sat down near it to await eventualities. I had not long to wait, for the loading was soon accomplished, those who had no business on board went ashore, the vessel cast off and was soon under way; and beyond the seamen who, aided by the Relief Party of Royal Engineers, were still busy completing the stowing of the pork, the flour and the tents, I was the only person on deck, the Captain and Chief Officer being on the bridge. In a few minutes, however, the officer in charge of the Engineers came out of the saloon and entering into conversation with him I wiled away the time until the Captain came down from the bridge, when I felt that the moment had arrived for me to make a clean breast of it.

I accordingly approached him, and making as good a tale as I could, apologised for not having mentioned the matter to him when I first came on board, my excuse being that I did not care to disturb him when I saw he was so busy. I found that he knew nothing of the order given by the Government that no passengers should be taken, and he merely referred me to the steward, and told me to make terms with him. Off I went to that official, who at once informed me that while he could "mess" me, as he called it, at so much per day, he had no sleeping accommodation at his disposal. A gratuity, however, recalled to his mind that there was a bunk in the Mail Cabin upon which he could

make a " shake-down " for me if I did not mind the presence of the mail bags and undertook not to smoke in so sacred a locality, a condition which I thankfully accepted, for I was only too pleased to get off so easily.

He told me that a gentleman from Montreal had come on board in the same way, so I felt that I should at least have a companion in any difficulty which might arise.

A voyage across the Banks of Newfoundland is not particularly pleasant, for there is always a dampness in the atmosphere, and icebergs are rather too numerous, especially when a fog comes on, as it did within a few hours after we left Halifax. Indeed, it seemed to me that the elements of the voyage were icebergs, whales and fog horns ; but these were, after all, expected, and it was the unexpected which caused us the greatest inconvenience.

Government vessels in Canada are run upon temperance lines, and neither fermented nor distilled liquors are allowed on board ; but by an unfortunate mischance some rye whisky put in an appearance on this occasion. Now whether it was exceptionally strong or the Captain's head particularly weak I cannot say, but it had such an effect upon him that he set a wrong course, and for many hours we were going altogether out of our way while he slumbered in his cabin. The first officer said he could not alter the course as there was no danger, so we had to wait until the captain recovered from his carouse, and without entering into details I may say that instead of reaching St. John's on the Sunday evening, we did not arrive until Monday morning, when I learned that a steamer of the Allan line had been specially chartered by Glasgow merchants and others who were heavily interested in the Newfoundland trade, had sailed the day after I left London, and had arrived at St. John's on the previous evening !

Incidentally I may add that the vessel on which I assumed the *rôle* of a stowaway was wrecked two days after she left St. John's.

AN ANXIOUS WEEK.

Some years ago a difficulty having arisen in connection with a matter of business in an important town in Greece, involving many thousands of pounds, and it having been found impossible to adjust it locally, I decided to go over and see what I could do personally.

Accordingly I started, at short notice, and in due course reached my destination, when I found from preliminary investigation that the difficulty was much greater than I had anticipated, and that it would require considerable patience and tact to surmount it satisfactorily.

I carried with me several useful letters of introduction, and among them one to the son of a Greek merchant in London, who took a great, though carefully concealed, interest in my mission. For in so comparatively small a place, and among such a people it was necessary to be cautious, and, as everyone with whom I came into contact in the matter fully realized this, the difficulty I had come to settle was increased.

I was getting on slowly, but to my own mind not unsatisfactorily, when, meeting this gentleman one day, I was rather surprised by his asking me whether in walking up the Street of St. Nicholas to the Bank, whither he had noticed I often went, I walked under the Arcades. Now, the street in question is a very ancient one, and the upper floors of the buildings extend over the side walk, on the edge of which they are supported by arches and columns, thus leaving a covered passage below for pedestrians; and the sun being at the time somewhat powerful, I had rather

congratulated myself on thus obtaining protection from its rays, and I promptly answered in the affirmative.

"The arcades are very old, the pavement is very uneven and at different levels, and there are many nasty projecting buttresses and walls between some of the buildings, behind which anyone could easily conceal himself," he continued; and I quite agreed with him, for I had myself thought that the arcades, poorly lighted, would be somewhat dangerous places to walk in after dark, and, indeed, they were rather sombre and uncanny even by day.

"If I were you I should walk in the middle of the road; you can easily carry an umbrella for use if you find the sun too hot," he added; and wishing me "Good day," he passed on.

I did not enquire why he gave me this caution; but I took his advice, and the next evening when I was dining with him at his house, which was at some little distance from the town, he gave me some explanations, and when I was leaving he insisted upon accompanying me in the carriage to the door of my hotel.

"For," said he, "if anything should happen you would be in an awkward position as you do not speak the language, but if I am with you nothing is likely to happen. "We" (referring to himself and others to whom I had introductions), "consider you as being under our care, and we are not going to lose sight of you."

All this was somewhat disconcerting, to put it mildly; but I continued my investigations and negotiations, went about as little as possible, and when not engaged in writing or calculations, passed the time on the balcony of my room, which overlooked the square and the harbour; and I thus obtained interesting glimpses of the everyday life of the people and of the traffic of the port.

I noticed, among other things, the flocks of turkeys driven through the street for sale, for the Greek housekeeper apparently prefers to buy her feathered food alive;

and occasionally a purchaser presented herself, and one of the flock would disappear, and sometimes the driver also would be absent for a short time (I presumed engaged in killing the bird on the premises) during which interval the remainder patiently waited, either availing themselves of the opportunity to take a rest, or pecking about in the dusty road in the vain hope of discovering some stray grains or other appetising morsels.

Outside a Kafenia on the Square an elderly man frequently sat, busily engaged in telling his beads, and as he had the appearance of a peasant rather than a member of a religious body, I was surprised at his apparent devotion, until upon enquiry I found that the string of beads was not a rosary, but merely an appliance used by many persons to kill the time when not otherwise engaged. I afterwards noticed many of them in use even during conversation.

Sunday was approaching, and as no business could be transacted on that day, two good friends, ever anxious for my welfare and unwilling to leave me to my own devices, suggested that I should accompany them on that day to Olympia, to which place the railway had not long since been extended. The distance was only 73 miles, but it took six hours to get there, allowing for a wait of an hour at Pyrgos, and it was therefore necessary to start early.

My friends called for me soon after 7 o'clock in the morning, and on arriving at the station I found they had reserved a compartment for our private use, into which baskets of provisions were being placed, while in the luggage rack I noticed a jar (about the size of our one-gallon jar), from all of which it was evident that we were not likely to run short of refreshments.

The slow speed at which the train travelled enabled me to obtain a good view of the country traversed, and the long halts at the various stations gave me opportunities of seeing local customs and costumes. I noticed, however, that the National costume was not worn so extensively as

I had hoped and anticipated, though many women of the peasant class were sufficiently picturesque in their embroidered jackets and necklets of coins.

At one of the stations there was a sudden exodus of passengers to a stall (if I may so call it) outside the gate, where appetising skewers of kabobs were being roasted over a charcoal fire, and disposed of with astonishing rapidity; while at another station I noticed on the gravel platform, at intervals of about ten feet, fowls in pairs tied together by the legs and thus quite unable to move or even to flutter. They were fine birds and looked very plump, and I was informed that they were capons, for which the particular district is celebrated. Several passengers alighted and bargained with the owners, taking their purchases into the carriages they occupied and stowing them under the the seats. As I said before the Greek housekeeper prefers to buy his poultry alive and kill it at his convenience.

Between Pyrgos and Olympia, an hour's journey without any intermediate station, the baskets of provisions were opened, and we enjoyed an excellent lunch; and from the trouble taken by my friends in this direction I assumed that there was no inn at Olympia, but was told that there was a very good Xenodochion there (for Greece), though you could not always be sure of a good meal; and that it was, therefore, better to take your own meal with you. Moreover, that in visiting Olympia and returning the same day there was no time to waste at an inn, and it was more convenient to enjoy your repast in the train.

With the provisions the gallon jar put in an appearance, and when I was told that it contained wine I thought we should in any case not run short. I was, however, also told that it was not intended for my own consumption, as being Greek wine I should not like it; and when I explained that many years of travel had made my appetite and tastes somewhat cosmopolitan, and that I usually drank the wine of the country I was in, and was taking Greek wine with my

meals at the hotel (although I admitted that I thought it rather crude and strong), they looked at each other and smiled in a manner which I did not quite understand.

However, I insisted upon trying it, but fortunately only sipped, and was consequently able to swallow the liquid, though my friends laughed heartily at my dilemma.

They then explained to me that the ordinary wine of the country, and that preferred by the native, was flavoured with resin, which gave it the taste which I did not appreciate; and that as they knew I should not care for it they had brought for my special benefit some bottles of unfortified wine such as was usually drunk by foreigners and as sold at the hotels—another instance of their kind and thoughtful hospitality—and from the depths of one of the baskets a bottle was promptly produced.

I do not intend to write a description of Olympia; but in view of the recent revival of so-called Olympic Games, it may interest some to know that it was not a town in any sense of the word, but rather a place at which festivals and annual athletic sports were held, the numerous temples and other buildings (covering an area of some 1,200 by 600 feet) being used in connection with the pagan rites usual on such occasions, and the only residents being the priests and their assistants.

Only free-born Greeks could be competitors at these sports, and no females were allowed to witness them, while the prizes consisted of olive branches, and the possession of one of these carried with it distinction not only to the owner, but also to his family and even to his birthplace.

The origin of the games is lost in antiquity, and they ceased to be held about A.D. 400, after which the buildings were ruined by successive earthquakes, and the site gradually covered by landslips, and as the result of the overflowing of a neighbouring river; until in 1874 excavations were undertaken under German auspices and the ruins brought to light again.

The spectators watched the games from a neighbouring hill (known as Kronos Hill); the Stadium, where the foot races were run was 630 feet long and outside the temple precincts; and Marathon, as far as I am aware, had no more connection with Olympia than with the Stadium at Shepherd's Bush or at Stockholm.

I did not find the ruins particularly interesting, while the Museum erected by the German excavators contained at the time of my visit the usual collection of damaged and mutilated fragments or reconstructed human and animal figures, the only really beautiful statue which I saw being the Hermes of Praxiteles, undoubtedly one of the finest specimens of ancient art.

On our way back the provision baskets and gallon jar again came into requisition, and in passing leisurely through the villages or while waiting at the stations I had opportunities of hearing Greek singing and seeing Greek dances, which much interested me.

The excursion formed a very pleasant break in my anxious week, and on the following day I recommenced my work with renewed ardour; but after lunch, while taking a glass of masticha (a sort of Greek absinthe) at the Kafenia (café) with another friend, he availed himself of the opportunity to enquire what I did in the evening after dinner. I told him that I took my coffee and smoked a cigar in the hall of the hotel before going to my room, when he said:

"Take my advice and go straight to your room, *lock the door*, and smoke your cigar there. Everyone now knows what you are here for; you have been making enquiries; you are dealing with a large sum of money; and you never know what may happen. You cannot be too careful!"

I should not be speaking the truth if I said that these frequent cautions did not somewhat unsettle me; but I had a task before me and I meant to go through with it. As to the nature or merits of the business it is not my intention to write; suffice it to say that after many

difficulties, discussions and meetings, not always of the most pleasant character, I came to a settlement which, if not altogether satisfactory to the parties locally concerned, was so to me and to those interested in England.

I left for Athens as soon as matters were definitely arranged, and on the morning of my departure as early as half-past seven o'clock, was rather surprised to find a large party of gentlemen interested in the business which I had had in hand, or to whom I had borne letters of introduction, waiting to see me off; but I was still more astonished when just as the train was about to start the party principally concerned appeared upon the scene. I expressed my surprise and also my pleasure at seeing him, when he said, "You have been very hard upon me, but you have done it in so nice and kind a manner, that I could not let you go without wishing you good-bye."

As he said this the train started, and leaning out of the window I shook hands with him and said, "Ah, Mr. X, I am afraid I have paid you too much after all!" At this there was a general laugh, but whether at his expense or my own I have never been quite able to decide; but in any case I was glad that my anxious week had come to an end so satisfactorily.

A CLOSE SHAVE.

It is a singular thing, but nevertheless a fact, that Latin races are the most addicted to revolution, either against their rulers in the case of Empires or Monarchies, or among themselves in the case of Republics ; in the former no doubt on account of oppressive and tyrannical forms of Government, and in the latter owing to a spirit of militarism, a desire for self-aggrandisement, or the accumulation of wealth.

Not that revolutionary methods are confined to Latin races, for I remember that many years ago a gentleman with whom I was acquainted was in the Republic of Hayti on business, and one day when about to leave the hotel in which he was staying at Port au Prince, he was accosted by the landlord, who said, " I should not go out just now, Mr. R., there is going to be a revolution." He accordingly returned to his room, and venturing to look out of the window he saw troops and cannon drawn up at either end of the principal street in which the hotel was situated. He hurriedly drew in his head, closed the window and occupied himself with his correspondence as best he could, to the accompaniment of artillery and musket practice ; and after the lapse of about an hour the landlord tapped at his door and entering said : " You can go out now, Mr. R., a new President has been elected ! "

But then the Republic of Hayti was based upon Latin models, so that a little blood-letting was a natural accompaniment to the election of so important a personage.

Central and South America have, however, in the past been the great centres of revolution ; from the time when the various districts now forming separate republics shook off their allegiance to Spain, and afterwards when in 1889 the Brazils deposed the unfortunate scion of the Portuguese Royal Family, Dom Pedro II., thus falling into line with their Spanish neighbours, until the present day. In the meantime there is scarcely one, if any, of the Republics thus established, Mexico, Guatemala, Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chili, Argentina, and Brazil, which has not experienced several revolutions, mostly in connection with the election of Presidents ; and, in fact, at one time such occurrences appeared to have become chronic, though now they are less frequent.

It was, therefore, not surprising that, when I was in the Argentine Republic in 1891, on business affected by the unfortunate financial position which then obtained there, there should have been a revolution in Chili. I call it a " revolution " because it was thus referred to in all the newspapers of the time, no doubt because it made a sensational heading to telegrams and articles ; but it was not thus considered or described locally, the so-called " Revolutionists," who were merely protesting forcibly against an arbitrary assumption of power by President Balmaceda, speaking of themselves and being spoken of by their sympathisers and supporters as the " Opposition."

Call it, however, what one will, a state of civil war existed, many lives were lost and many cruelties perpetrated, for the South American, whether soldier or civilian, is easily worked up and does not stand upon ceremony or attach much importance to the lives of his adversaries, when once boiling point has been reached !

I was, as I have said, in Argentina at the time, but it became necessary for me to go on to Chili ; and as Buenos Ayres itself had only just recovered from a revolution of its own, and we were in daily expectation of another

outbreak, as the city was still under martial law and things generally were unsettled and unsatisfactory, I felt that there was little to choose between the two countries and decided to face the situation.

The Transandine line, recently completed, was then in course of construction, and by the courtesy of the contractors, to whom I had an introduction, I was offered the means of transit to Mendoza, whence the Andes could be crossed by the Uspallata Pass on mules to Santa Rosa, from which point I could continue the journey by railway to Valparaiso. This was a tempting opportunity, of which I should much have liked to avail myself; but when I called on the Chilian Consul General in Buenos Ayres to have my passport viséd, I thought it best to ask him whether in the existing state of affairs I could safely undertake the journey. His answer was "Robbery is a certainty and murder a probability," so I thought it as well to give up the idea and go round by sea through the Strait of Magellan, especially as my wife was travelling with me.

I am not going to describe either the Andes, or the Strait, the Southern Atlantic or the Pacific, however much of interest there might be in all or any of these subjects; suffice it to say that in due course I found myself in Valparaiso, and the circumstances both there and in Santiago were most depressing. I have reason to believe that I was under observation during the whole period of my stay in the country, and I knew that when I went to Santiago I was shadowed by a military officer in mufti, who went with me in the same saloon carriage, stayed at the same hotel, turned up suddenly and disappeared mysteriously on various occasions when I was paying visits or looking at public or other buildings. He ultimately followed me back to my hotel in Valparaiso, though I did try to give him the slip on my departure, not because I had anything to conceal, but because it became rather wearing and annoying to me to feel that his eyes were at all times upon me, and also

because I knew from what I had seen and heard that even a suspected stranger, however innocent of political or revolutionary motives, would have had a bad time of it, if once he had fallen into the clutches of the Balmaceda Government.

After my return to Valparaiso I did not see anything more of my military friend, so I presumed that the authorities had come to the conclusion that I had no sinister designs; and the time arrived when I wished to leave that city and visit the northern ports and the countries beyond. But the Chilian Government had declared all ports north of

INTENDENCIA, VALPARAISO.

Coquimbo to be blockaded, and had prohibited vessels from calling at them, though the British Minister had explained that a mere paper blockade could not be recognised; and acting upon this protest the Pacific Steam Navigation Company had dispatched a vessel, the *Serena*, which, however, carried no passengers. They now arranged to dispatch another, the *Mendoza*, and I decided to book passages; but the Government had given notice that no one was to leave Valparaiso by sea without a permit from the Intendencia, and that no tickets were to be issued without such permits being produced.

Accordingly the day before I proposed to leave I presented myself at the Secretariat, produced my British Foreign Office passport, and this having been examined, and particulars taken of my personal appearance, I was informed that a permit would be at my disposal the next day, none being issued until the day on which the vessel actually sailed.

But the Fates were unpropitious, for that very night the *Blanco Encalada*, a cruiser in the hands of the "Opposition" was sunk by a torpedo in Caldera Bay, and her officers and crew, numbering in all some three hundred souls, perished. This occurrence materially altered the situation, and my anxiety to get away from Valparaiso was increased when I found how entirely not only the residents of the city, but also the strangers within its gates, were at the mercy of the Government, and how little reliance could be placed upon official utterances.

At the hour fixed I presented myself at the Intendencia, only to find the crowded approaches guarded by soldiers. "No admission," said the sentry as I endeavoured to enter, and, declining to listen to my explanation that I came by appointment, he placed his rifle across me and roughly ordered me to stand aside. I tried to gain admission at another entrance, but with no better success; "Stand back" was the only reply vouchsafed to my representations, and the looks and actions accompanying the words made it pretty evident that the order was not to be disregarded.

At length I decided to seek the advice and assistance of the British Consul. As to the latter none was forthcoming; after the circumstances had been explained to him he said he could do nothing, and that I could not expect the officials to dance to my music, although it seemed to me that I was dancing to theirs; while as to advice, all he could suggest was "try again." I did so, this time accompanied by a well-known resident, who endeavoured to explain the situation to the guards, but he was more nervous than

myself, probably because he had more experience of such incidents, and he soon gave up the attempt; while my own further personal efforts were responded to by a bayonet in close proximity to the bottom button of my waistcoat, and I was peremptorily ordered to leave the Intendencia.

I reported these results to the Consul, and was then advised by him to see what I could do with the Steamboat Company. Fortunately I was known to the Manager, who was an Englishman, and he ultimately issued tickets to me upon the understanding that the risk should be borne by me; and I hastened back to the hotel, where my wife was anxiously awaiting my return and wondering what could have happened to me.

The boatmen also had for some time been waiting to take my luggage, and I lost no time in starting them off with instructions to lie to with their boat at the foot of a certain stairway on the jetty, until I arrived.

Having then briefly explained the situation to my wife we sauntered together through the town as if the last thing in the world we were thinking of was departure, and ultimately reached the jetty, down which we quietly strolled until I had located my boat, when hurrying down the stairway we slipped on board.

We were, however, hardly seated when a stout gentlemanly man followed us, without ceremony, causing the boat to give an unpleasant lurch. Now I had stipulated for the sole use of the boat, and a protest rose to my lips; but remembering that we were ourselves fugitives, and that our companion might be similarly placed, and wondering also if possibly his presence might have a more personal bearing, I thought it better to say nothing, especially as he apologised in excellent English, and said he would explain everything later.

On reaching the *Mendoza*, our friend, as I may now call him, for he became so on our voyage, hurried up the companion ladder and disappeared as mysteriously as he had appeared; and I may here mention, although I did not

know the facts until he related them to me later on, that he was one of the leaders of the "Opposition," had been brought a prisoner to Valparaiso, but had escaped. Waiting on the jetty with two political friends for an opportunity to reach the *Mendoza* he had noticed the luggage being put into our boat, and, concealing himself, awaited our arrival; when finding, as he said, that we were English and feeling, therefore, that we should not betray him, he had followed us on board, and thus got safely away. Not that at this moment his safety was assured, for there was a search for him before our vessel started, and again the next day at Coquimbo; and it was not until we had left that port and were out of reach of the Government that he put in a permanent appearance among the passengers.

Meantime, coming back to ourselves, having reached the deck of the *Mendoza* and found our cabin, we proceeded to make arrangements for the voyage; but as the hour of departure approached, a party of Chilian officers came on board and proceeded to examine the permits of the passengers. With as much calmness as was possible under the circumstances my wife and I strolled about the deck, hoping to escape notice; but it was not long before two of the officers approached us, and demanded my "Passaporta," as they called it.

I immediately produced my Foreign Office passport and pointed to the visé of the Chilian Consul in London; but this did not satisfy them, and they informed me in Spanish that what they wanted was "La Passaporta de la Intendencia." The position was an awkward one, and, on the spur of the moment the only course which suggested itself to me was to feign absolute ignorance of their language and requirements, and stolidly present to them my British passport, calling their attention, in English, to the fact that this was all that an Englishman required under any circumstances.

They left me at last, and I flattered myself that they

had given me up as a bad job ; but I was soon undeceived, for another officer came forward soon after and explained to me in English what was wanted, adding that if I could not produce the necessary permit I could not proceed, but must go back with him to the town.

I had heard that the Government had threatened that if the *Mendoza* took passengers or cargo for any port south of Mollendo the forts would open fire upon her as she left, and that in response Admiral Hotham had intimated that if anything of the kind were contemplated, H.M.S. *Warspite* would convoy the ship out of Valparaiso Bay and return the fire should she be molested. I felt, therefore, that though I could obtain no assistance from the Consul, I could at least depend upon the Admiral; and emboldened by the fact that the *Warspite* was lying close by, I absolutely declined to leave the vessel, and ultimately the officers left me in peace.

They were more successful in other directions, for four passengers were detained and taken off by them when they took their departure, though they overlooked forty others who were concealed in various hiding places ; and who, with our friend, Senor J. Walker Martinez, put in an appearance as soon as it was safe for them to do so.

But as far as I was concerned I felt that I had had a close shave !

A CHINESE THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE.

CHINESE constitute the majority of the population of Singapore, and, although they come from various provinces, most of them are Babas or those born in the Straits Settlements. They speak various dialects according to their origin; and, although none of them apparently understand the Cantonese and Pekinese languages, in which theatrical performances are usually given, they are passionately fond of such entertainments, from the humble outdoor "penny gaff" (if I may so call it) to the more classical representations in the regularly constructed and more imposing "opera house."

Many have written about the Chinese theatre, and particularly those who have visited San Francisco, where it used to be considered one of the stock sights; but I do not know if many have entered into details, or if they have, they have not come under my notice; and I am therefore writing this chapter from the notes taken by me of a performance at the principal Chinese theatre in Singapore, in order to make good the apparent deficiency.

Europeans were certainly not frequent visitors to the theatre in question, for our little party was at first refused admission point-blank; though this was probably only done with a view to obtaining increased prices, for the Chinaman is an astute man of business wherever met with, and our arrival had evidently put the money taker upon his mettle.

However, after considerable discussion and bargaining, we were ultimately allowed to pass the screen which shut

off the view of the interior from the doorway, and found ourselves in a large and crowded hall with a stage at the further end, a gallery on either side, and a third gallery above the entrance. The ground floor and the last-named gallery were reserved for men, and the two side galleries for women and children. Outside the rails of the galleries was a broad ledge, along which vendors of tea, fruit and other " chow " walked, supplying the requirements of the audience, most of whom were eating, drinking or talking with absolute disregard to the performance which was proceeding—but then the play had been going on for several days, and was likely to go on to the end of the week, so that one or two Acts more or less made little difference to the habitués.

Seats were found for us in the end gallery, at the back of which facing the stage was the usual Joss (or Chinese Altar if it may be so called), though as this is usually connected with personal ancestor worship, its appearance in a theatre was somewhat inexplicable. But Chinese manners and methods are all to a great extent inexplicable even to those foreigners who know most of them.

After the audience, the first thing that naturally attracted my attention was the stage, which was merely a platform approached by doors from the back (left and right) and by two short flights of steps from the body of the auditorium. It was absolutely devoid of scenery and the stage furniture consisted of a table and three chairs, while on the wall at the left was hung for general information the Play Bill, a sheet of red paper about 18 inches broad by some 2 feet 6 inches in length.

Members of the audience walked up one or other of the flights of steps at intervals and sat at the sides or on the edge of the stage with their legs hanging over, while children sat, squatted, or rolled about it at their pleasure, no notice whatever being taken of them by the actors.

In this connection it is interesting to note that it is

recorded by Leigh Hunt in "The Town" that in London until the time of Garrick, "members of the audience often sat about a stage as at the sides of a room, and the actor had to make his way among them, sometimes with the chance of being insulted."

At the back of the stage sat the orchestra who wore no dress in particular, the majority of them being clad only in the short, full knickerbockers from waist to above the knee, the usual costume of the coolie class. But what they lacked in clothing they made up for in noise, punctuating the libretto apparently at their own sweet will, and the greater part of the time drowning the voices of the actors altogether by the beating of a gong and the clashing of cymbals, interspersed with occasional taps on an instrument sounding like a xylophone.

In what I presume were the more sentimental passages, the noise ceased and the musical accompaniment was taken up by a fiddle; and, when the play had worked up to a sensational point, a kind of clarinet burst in with bagpipe-like tones, winding up with a long-drawn, ear-piercing shriek. This instrument, however came in very seldom, the brunt of the work falling upon the gong and the cymbals.

But the play, "the play's the thing!" This particular one, as I was informed by a friendly Chinaman who sat behind me, had been going on for three days and would probably not be finished for another three days, so that one had to pick up the threads of the subject as best one could. In any case it would have been impossible to do so from the words, which could only be heard at rare intervals, owing to the noise made by the orchestra; while, as my Chinese friend told me, the language was high-class Cantonese, which only a few of those present (including himself) understood, the majority of the audience being Hokkiens and Babas, to whom it was absolutely unintelligible, and who consequently followed the plot by means of the action only.

At the time of our entrance a person sat behind the

table in the centre of the stage, gorgeously dressed, and with a little white flag projecting from each shoulder, while a man with a long black beard (such a transparent falsity as to be simply laughable) seemed to argue with him, occasionally stroking his beard, lifting up one leg and twisting round on the other.

One particular position which he took up was very amusing, and our self-constituted guide and interpreter explained that this implied that he was on horseback, and was so understood by all present.

At intervals various satellites, attendants, warriors or what not, marched in, went through some (to me) idiotic evolutions and marched out again.

After a while the presiding genius at the table himself marched out, followed by all on the stage at the time ; and as he went out on the left there entered from the right doorway a woman (really a boy, for women do not appear on the Chinese stage) most exquisitely dressed and with a head-dress beggaring all description.

And here I may mention incidentally that the costumes of Chinese actors are extremely elaborate, beautifully embroidered and of great value, many of them being said to be worth several thousand dollars each. They may be purchased new by curio hunters at the silk shops, or second-hand at the stores of dealers in unredeemed pledges.

The lady having taken up a suitable position harangued her attendants and the audience for some time in a high-pitched squeaky voice, the monologue being punctuated by the inevitable cymbals and gong ; and ultimately she sat down upon the centre chair, which had now been placed in front of the table.

From her dress, her manner, and the deference shown to her by her attendants, I concluded that she could be nothing less than an Empress or a Princess.

She was scarcely seated when there entered an old man (presumably the Emperor) with a white beard, clad in rich

robes of brocaded silk heavily overlaid with gold trimmings, and with a head-dress of magnificent plumes.

The lady at once vacated her chair, which the old man took, spreading out his legs sideways in the manner noticeable in the paintings on Chinese jars, and to the noisiest of instrumental accompaniments discussed with the Empress (or whoever she may have been), who had in the meantime taken a side seat, some important question, unheard by the audience, except when now and then she managed to get her squeaky voice in between the clashing of the cymbals.

After various entries and exits of supernumeraries, and an interminable dialogue, the principal characters withdrew and the stage was occupied by a warrior armed with a spear, who favoured the house with a speech of some ten minutes' duration to an accompaniment on the samsum and clarinet, the excitement and noise being gradually worked up until the re-entry of the white bearded old man.

Further long arguments, an amusing encounter with spears, each combatant pirouetting, twisting, and turning about in turn with one leg in the air, the fight terminating with the death of the Emperor and the slow and deliberate exit of the victor. I assumed that the old man was dead, but I must have been mistaken, for on attendants entering and lifting him up, he resumed his legs, stroked his beard, felt his body as if to find out where he had been hurt, and ultimately took his spear from the hands of a trusty henchman, with a white label on his back, who had picked it up and had been standing in the position assumed by an acrobat when waiting for another to step on his knee and be thrown over his head.

In the next scene the lady reappeared, accompanied by Amazon-like attendants, and ultimately followed by a band of warriors; further long arguments, a pitched battle to extra loud music, discomfiture of the warriors, acrobatic performances generally—and then we came to the conclusion that we had seen enough of this particular classic ; and with

thanks to the friendly Chinaman who had acted as our guide and mentor on the occasion, we withdrew from the scene, and taking rickshas returned to our hotel and solaced ourselves with stengahs of whisky-soda and the conclusion that Western theatrical performances were after all more entertaining and less fatiguing.

AN EARLY VISIT.

I WAS desirous of seeing the interior of a Chinese private house in Singapore, and Mr. Tan Keng Swee, a wealthy contractor, upon the introduction of a mutual friend, courteously gave me the opportunity.

Accompanied by the friend in question I accordingly presented myself at his residence at 8.30 a.m., the hour fixed by him, and as I understood, one of the usual visiting hours in Chinese polite society.

His grounds were surrounded by a high wall entered through large and solid gates embellished with figures and, to me, unknown animals, beetles, birds, and flowers in a highly coloured enamelled ware. Passing through these gates I found myself in a large and beautiful garden kept with a degree of care and neatness which could not be surpassed ; flower borders were interspersed with fancy pots and vases containing rose trees in full bloom and various other flowers, yews and box trees cut and trained in a variety of fantastic designs and patterns, the inevitable dragon predominating, and stone ornaments of more or less quaint appearance.

Facing the entrance gates and carried along the whole length of the house was a broad verandah, from the ceiling of which hung numerous ornamental cages containing birds of varied hues, not the least interesting of which was a small bluish-black " magpie " (so called) which whistled to order on a wave of the hand.

On this verandah I was received by a Chinaman, whom I took to be my host, who gave me the names of the various

plants, flowers, and birds, and other interesting information; but as etiquette did not permit of my taking notes at the time, most of the names and much of the information had slipped from my memory before my note book was available.

We did not, however, seem to be getting any nearer to the interior, and I was beginning to fear that my visit would commence and end on the door-step, when an older and more dignified gentleman appeared, and I then learned that I had been talking to his younger brother, Mr. Tan Keng Wah, who, on the arrival of his senior, stepped aside with the deference shown by the Chinese to their elders; and although he accompanied us over the house he did not again open his lips until the time came to say farewell!

After introduction and a short conversation in which my friend acted as interpreter, my host, with a stately wave of the hand, invited me to enter the reception room, a lofty chamber, of which the walls were hung with inscriptions and designs on silk materials. Round the walls were arranged stiff high-backed chairs and settees of carved blackwood, upholstered in coloured marble, which did not offer much in the way of comfort; while on either side were doors leading to private apartments (presumably bedrooms), which were not at that early hour open to inspection.

From the reception room we passed through a corridor to a spacious courtyard partly open to the sky, and containing numerous articles of furniture and ornaments which would have delighted the eyes of the curio hunter. Prominence was given to several large specimens of grotto or rock work with miniature houses, bridges, pagodas, and figures dotted about them; and one grand specimen, which my host informed me came from Canton, represented a mountain, on the sides of which innumerable dwarf trees (Cedars, Junipers, Pines and other species) were growing to represent a forest, many of them being of very great age; while here and there houses and figures were introduced, and

down the mountain side trickled a miniature waterfall into a lake at the foot.

Other interesting objects were glass tanks standing on ornamental tables and containing shoals of little fishes, less than an inch, and many of them half-an-inch only, in length, of the brightest colours, sapphire, ruby, topaz, and emerald, which rushed to the surface in a crowd when Mr. Tan Keng Swee tapped the glass, and followed his finger round the tank in a state of great excitement. I could not gather whence they came or what they were, but the effect produced was most beautiful as they swam round the tank like so many little flashing gems. What struck me on this occasion, as on others, was the love of birds, fish and flowers shown by the educated Chinaman, which is not altogether what one would expect from them, judging by the ordinary descriptions of their characteristics!

But I had almost forgotten one of the great features of the Courtyard, which was a magnificent Joss (I call it a "joss," but am not sure that this is the correct description) in crimson lacquer, 12 feet high and 8 feet broad. It contained the history of the owner's ancestors, and in front of it were two handsome vases, which, had I not known that the Chinese bury their dead, I should have assumed contained their ashes. The Joss, or Screen, or whatever it should be called, was placed at the bottom of the Court, and when all the intervening doors were thrown open it made a splendid finish to the vista from the verandah.

I spent more than an hour in looking at the various specimens of Chinese art, and in conversation with the Towkay, and came away impressed not only with the courtesy but also with the intelligence and dignity of the educated Chinaman.

A DUTCH KERMIS.

* Rijde, Rijde, Rijde in een wagentje,
En als je dan niet rijde wil, dan draag ik je !

For some ten minutes we had been standing listening to this somewhat inane refrain sung by some fifty voices to the tune of the "Post Horn Galop," not because the words, the music, or the sentiment interested us, but on account of the circumstances and the surroundings.

For we were looking at a Draaimolen, or, as we should call it, a "Merry-go-round" or a "Roundabout," at a Kermis in Holland; and as the machine occasionally stopped for customers to dismount and others to mount the ungainly spotted steeds, we had an opportunity of seeing the costumes of the district and judging of the characteristics of the wearers.

The demand for accommodation was great, and around the Draaimolen waiting for their turns were Jan, Piet, Klaas, and others, with their wide and somewhat short trousers, short jackets, and broad belts with large silver or gilt buckles, some of them even going to the length of a band pendant from the fob with a seal of gold or other metal attached; while hanging tightly on to their arms were Kaatje, Antje, and Mietje, resplendent in their lace head-dresses with gold plates on either side, and long gold earrings or projecting ornaments resembling overgrown corkscrews. Others wore round lace caps with a gold band over the forehead and projecting gold plates, and some of them had small straw hats surmounting all this wealth of ornament. All of them

* Ride, ride, ride in a little carriage, and if you won't ride, I'll carry you.

were well provided with petticoats, and several of them wore Klompen (wooden shoes), although most wore leather shoes, and a few had ventured out in the velvet slippers which they wore in the house at home, when they left their Klompen at the back door.

The head-dresses and the golden ornaments were in many cases heirlooms, though in many others I have reason to believe that the latter were only silver gilt ; but in any case they were very effective, and their owners used to be very proud of them until in recent years they, like the rest of the European peasantry, have discarded time-honoured and picturesque head-dresses for poor twopenny-halfpenny imitations of " Paris models."

But when the Draaimolen stopped at intervals all the riders did not dismount. There were Dirk and Saartje side by side on adjacent chargers, his arms around her waist and hers around his neck, and their lips glued together in a very ecstacy of desire ; and on another pair of horses were Piet and Jaan rapidly approaching the same ecstatic condition. These and others similarly lost for a while to the world, went round time after time, the swain perfunctorily bringing out another *dubbeltje at each stoppage and handing it to the collector ; while many of those standing round, and awaiting their turn, cast wistful eyes upon such couples, and filled up the intervals of waiting with fervid embraces and tentative oscultations.

Close by, and in absolute discordance with the song of the " Merry-go-rounders," a powerful and large barrel-organ, surmounted by various brass instruments, the whole forming a blatant orchestrion, attracted numerous dancers, the dancing, however, being of a somewhat ponderous nature, but evidently giving intense satisfaction to the performers and the onlookers ; while from a distance the overwhelming tones of other similar instruments, discoursing operatic and popular airs, added to the general din.

* A silver coin of ten cents.

The inner man was not overlooked in this district, for sundry drinking shops and booths dispensed Brandewijn and other strong drinks; while the customers sang with energy such exhilarating and poetic refrains as:

* "Brandewijn met suiker, lieve, lekkere Gerritje;
Brandewijn met suiker, lieve, lekkere meid."

At adjacent stalls many tempting viands were sold, among which hard boiled eggs and pickled cucumbers appeared to be largely patronised.

Wandering away from this second-rate and somewhat debasing spectacle we came across rows of booths and stalls at which the usual fairings were obtainable; ribbons, laces, leather and fancy goods, cheap jewellery and ornaments of every description; while farther on we reached the sweetstuff and gingerbread stalls—and all seemed to be doing a roaring trade.

Around one of the gingerbread stalls a group of young men and women had gathered, and as we passed, one of the girls was pressing her lover to take part in some competition which was going on, and which we pressed forward to see. On four substantial legs was a block of wood resembling a butcher's chopping-block, but rather smaller, being about a foot in diameter, and cut across the centre was a groove about an inch wide and half an inch deep. On the block was lying a cake of gingerbread, and in front stood a youth, who, as we approached, raised over his shoulder a stout cudgel about three feet in length and brought it down with considerable force upon the tough gingerbread. A shout went up as the gingerbread fell undamaged to the ground; but it was soon on the block again, and having paid another coin he had another blow, and catching the tough cake immediately over the groove cut it clean in half and became its possessor.

* Brandy with sugar, dearest, sweetest Gerritje;
Brandy with sugar, dearest, sweetest maid.

This amusement was called "Sla-Koek," and to succeed requires considerable practice and dexterity, though at first sight it seems easy.

We had now arrived at the Square of the town, on the one side of which was the principal hotel, while on the opposite side was the leading "Koffiehuis," and for the time being between them were rows of "Poffertjes" and "Wafel" Booths, of which more anon.

Large numbers of people were going into the hotel, and deciding to follow them we found ourselves in the public room which was literally packed with visitors, sitting at tables round or standing in the centre. At the side of the room was the usual counter from which drinkables were served, and on the shelves at the back of it were the customary decanters with gilt inscriptions upon them, as if they were so many bottles of drugs in a chemist's shop. These, however, all remained untouched, for it was etiquette on this occasion to drink only "Bordeaux-wijn" (or "Claret" as we should call it), and the waiters were as busy as they could be in serving it—and poor stuff it was when the customers got it!

We had not been many minutes in this room and had not found seats, when without any apparent reason or signal all those who were standing suddenly seized their nearest neighbours (usually of the opposite sex) and commenced a sort of springy swaying movement, admirably calculated to upset those who had been freely imbibing red-wine or other liquors, as most of them had. A girl standing in front of me placed both her hands on my shoulders, another on my right slipped her arm into mine, and a young man on my left passed his arms as well as he could round the necks of the three, and without warning I found myself participating in a Kermis amusement known as "Hossen," not altogether to my personal comfort or gratification. The girls were all right, but the man's arms were heavy, his movements were elephantine, and we could have done

very well without his assistance! I was very glad when the entertainment stopped, which it only did when the majority were worn out with heat and exertion; and I was not long in making my escape into the open air, where I was soon joined by my companion, whose experience of "Hossen" was even worse than my own.

In the Square, as I have said, were numerous booths, and these contained rough tables and forms at which "poffertjes" and "wafelen" were consumed, to the accompaniment of hot rum grog. The two comestibles were not sold at one and the same booth, for they differed entirely in character; and turning our attention first to the "poffertjes," I found that outside each kraam, or booth, sat a woman, usually sturdy and stout, on a high stool; and in front of her over a fire was a sheet of iron with numerous shallow, circular, well-like depressions about two inches in diameter, arranged in rows. On her right stood a large tin of specially-prepared batter, and armed with an iron ladle she dipped into the mixture and deftly dropped some of it into each of the depressions until all were filled. Then putting down her ladle the cook seized a two-pronged fork, and commencing with the top row, turned over the masses, and by the time she had reached the last depression the batter in the first had been cooked on both sides and through. She then took a plate from a pile on her left and put on to it the first six poffertjes, powdered them with sugar from a large tin sifter, and handed the plate to a serving-maid; continuing this until the supply was exhausted, when, if the demand necessitated, she commenced a redistribution of batter.

Such are "poffertjes," and the great thing is to eat them immediately they come off the fire, as one would pancakes, which in flavour they much resemble; and thus partaken of they are most delectable, if somewhat filling.

We entered a booth, and partook of a portion, and while thus engaged were entertained by a couple of guitarists who,

singularly enough, sang in German and songs of a better character than those I have previously referred to; but when in the middle of "Du hast Diamanten und Perlen" they were interrupted by a passing party who gave us something more to their own taste and more appropriate to the occasion, which was sung to the tune of the last figure of the original "Lancers," and ran thus:—

* Drie Japaneezen en een baviaan,
Die zatten met elkander in een poffertjes kraam.

Leaving the poffertjes booths we inspected those at which wafels were made and sold, which were, however, quite apart; as, although their cakes were good, the reputation of the serving maids was not; but they were well patronised, and later in the evening when we had digested the poffertjes we sampled the wafels. Fortunately it is unnecessary for me to enter into any more culinary details, as "wafels" are well known as "wafers," and are roasted in hinged iron frames with long handles. I noticed not long since in an account of American cooking that they were spoken of as a speciality of the United States cuisine, but they were probably introduced there by the original Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam.

I need not refer to all the usual adjuncts of a fair which were present on such occasions; but I must not omit to mention the lurid banners with highly-coloured views of horrid and almost impossible crimes and accidents, graphically described in monotone by the peripatetic organ grinders who ground out a tune with one hand, while with the other they pointed with a wand to the picture of the incident they were dealing with.

These, with the booths, the roundabouts, the swings, etc., and the orchestrions, were to be found in all directions, and among them surged continuous crowds not only of those in search of entertainment, fairings and refreshment, but also

* Three Japanese and a baboon sat together in a poffertjes booth.

of others wandering and rolling about aimlessly in gangs, shouting at the top of their voices idiotic and ribald ditties, some of them of so obscene a character that I should be sorry to reproduce them even without a translation. Every year a special Kermis song was introduced, as is still done in countries where King Carnival holds sway; sometimes it took the popular fancy, at others it was a failure; and the ditty which was most in vogue on this particular occasion was a fair sample of their vulgar nature.

Such was a Kermis in Holland fifty years ago; a veritable Saturnalia, an orgy of drink and debauchery, and yet such a hold had these festivals upon the public mind that all classes participated in them to some extent, though in the evening they were principally patronised by the small traders, the peasantry, and the working-classes; and it may not be uninteresting for me to mention that on the last Sunday of the Kermis, every female domestic servant was allowed, by immemorial custom, to have the night out. They spent it among the scenes I have endeavoured briefly to describe, and I have not described all that was to be seen by a long way, and should be very sorry to make an attempt to do so.

Small wonder was it, therefore, that as education advanced, the Government of the Netherlands made vigorous efforts to improve the character of these festivals, and to abolish them altogether in large towns. The latter was no easy matter, and, indeed, the attempt to interfere in any way with the Kermis was strongly resented by the people. Not only was it in many instances the only opportunity for amusement which annually presented itself, but a very large number of people depended upon it for a living, while in remote places it was also a meeting for the more legitimate purposes of trade; and the calendars of the period did not contain the names of unknown saints, long forgotten national incidents, church festivals in which but few take any interest, average readings of barometer, temperature or

rainfall and other useless information, such as now adorns our own almanacs; but a complete list of Kermis dates throughout the country, by which the social life of the period was to a great extent regulated.

In the towns the Kermis died hard, and if my memory does not fail me, its abolition had to be deferred more than once in certain places, and notably in Amsterdam, where serious riots occurred; but, I believe that the festival is now held only in country places, and that its standard has been greatly improved.

WHERE THE SILK COMES FROM.

It was not without considerable difficulty that a friend obtained a permit for me to visit a Filature, which is the European name given to a Raw Silk Reeling Establishment in China.

The Works, although the property of an English firm, were on Chinese territory, and we started off early one morning to inspect them.

On arrival we found that the Manager was an Italian, no doubt because among Europeans the Italians have most experience of this industry; and he was evidently rather surprised to see us. He appeared to be the only man inside the works, for the employees were all Chinese women and girls—to the number of about a thousand—and they were under the superintendence of Italian forewomen.

What we first saw were the bales as they come down from the interior, the cocoons which they contain having already, at the hands of the peasants who reared the silkworms, undergone a process by heat by which the chrysalides had been killed. These cocoons were sorted into three baskets, the first containing those perfect in size, shape and colour, the second those imperfectly shaped or having a perforation made, in their efforts to escape, by the moths developed before the "firing" process took place, and the third such as contained two pupas or were discoloured by injuries sustained by their occupants.

Incidentally I may mention that no cocoons of inferior

quality are dealt with at a high-class Filature, the imperfect, perforated or discoloured specimens being exported and used in the manufacture of so-called "spun" silk, which has neither the gloss nor the strength of the "raw" article.

As soon as sorted, the specimens to be worked are put into a tank of boiling water, and then passed into one of the workrooms and there distributed. Into one of these workrooms we were next introduced, and the sight was a novel and interesting one. It was a long building lighted from the roof, and down its entire length sat, on forms, some hundred or more girls (many of them mere children), each with a basin of hot water containing cocoons in front of her. These cocoons she stirred about with a small bunch of twigs, first to get them clear of the floss and of the excess of the glutinous matter which they contained, and next to unravel the end of the thread, having found which she quickly passed it through a guide and eyelet hole in the machine in front of her to the spinner behind it.

These spinners were women experienced at the work, and, receiving the threads as they were unravelled, they deftly crossed and twisted them until they formed a silk thread of six strands, which was wound off round a frame until the required quantity and weight were obtained, when the silk was twisted into the beautiful bright yellow skeins or hanks of commerce. To secure uniformity of strength and thickness, to detect and remedy defects and breaks, and to judge of quantity and texture, requires great skill and practice ; and it was marvellous to notice the ease with which these women accomplished these delicate tasks, without hesitation or noticeable loss of time.

It is interesting to know that, except that the form has been somewhat modernised and the process accelerated by motive power, these reeling machines are in principle exactly the same as those originally introduced by the Empress Se-ling-she (wife of the Emperor Hwang-te), who

first noticed the threads produced by silk-worms, and having spun silk from them wove it into material no less than 4,300 years ago.

To see so many Chinese girls and women thus occupied was in itself interesting; and among the many types represented, I saw for the first time one with bright red hair, which is certainly unusual, and which I was informed was probably the result of mixed parentage.

As we walked with the Manager through the building many of the workers cast a glance at the "foreign devils," but this did not interfere with their labours; and noticing that each girl had beside her on the form on which she sat, two or three chow cups, I presumed that these contained their frugal morning meal. "Yes," said the Manager, "they bring a meal with them and often take one away with them when they leave"; and, so saying, he picked up one of the cups, and lifting from it another which served as a cover, he showed me that it contained two fat pupas (or chrysalides) which the girl had taken from the cocoons she was manipulating. "They are very fond of them," he added, "and sometimes take home enough to make an appetising supper." There is evidently no accounting for tastes!

Having looked over the Filature, I enquired of the Manager whence and how they got their supplies of cocoons, and he told me that they were purchased by Compradores; and as one of these was at the moment there, who happened, by the bye, to speak excellent English (which the Manager unfortunately did not) he introduced me to him, and I obtained the following information:

"At the commencement of the season," said the Compradore, "my colleague and myself visit the districts where the silk-worms are reared, and enter into contracts to buy, at prices agreed upon, from the peasants who rear them; and when the cocoon stage has been reached we go round and collect and pay, gradually making up bales which we send down to our Agent at the town on the Yun-ho

(Grand Canal) from which we propose to ship them. When the collection is completed we follow, check the bales, weigh them, and write upon each the chop (trade mark) of the firm, and the weight ; and having done this we await a visit from the chief collector of li-kin.

" He is not long in coming, and on his first, or ceremonial visit, he makes enquiries as to the health and welfare of our grandfathers and fathers, and after the usual formalities and salutations he takes his departure, not having in any way referred to the question of duty," for li-kin, I may explain, is a tax or duty upon merchandise or produce sent from one province or place to another within the Empire, and is sometimes collected several times before the goods or produce reach their destination. It is a marvellous revenue producer, but owing to the manner of its collection is a constant source of irritation, trouble, and sometimes even riot.

" The next day," continued my informant, " the chief collector calls upon us again, hopes that we have good news from our families, and that we have had a good season, and then remarks quite casually, as it were, ' Let me see, last season you shipped 800 piculs, this season you ship 900 piculs '— to which we reply ' As your Excellency says,' and the matter being thus settled the account is made up, we pay the li-kin and are at liberty to ship our bales." These figures I may say are imaginary.

Upon this I enquired why the exact weight was not given, and what would happen if they told His Excellency that the season had been a bad one, and that they had only brought down 700 piculs, when he continued :

" It may be, and generally is, that the amount of our collection is much less than the quantity mentioned by the collector; but it would never do for us to say so, for he would suggest that the bales should be weighed, and as the first that was put on the scale would be heavier than the weight we had marked upon it (for the scales are specially

prepared for the purpose), we should be charged with attempting to defraud the revenue, and every bale would be weighed and found by the authorities to be incorrectly marked according to their official scales. The trouble, formalities, and loss of time under these circumstances would be such that before the matter was adjusted the waters of the canal would have gone down, and we should not be able to ship the bales at all in time for the season's work. You have, Sir, to understand the working of li-kin to do business in China," a conclusion which I readily endorsed.

When the Compradore had left us I asked the Manager what check they had upon such transactions, and in what form the account was rendered. He smiled and said: "There are no accounts and no check; the firm hand to the Compradores so many thousand Taels when they leave, and should they require more they write for it; and on their return the bales are merely weighed, and the price per picul thus arrived at, plus the cost of reeling, establishes the value of the silk.

All of which goes to show the confidence which is placed by merchants in their Compradores, and also the extraordinary methods of business which obtain in the Celestial Empire.

TOPENG DALANG, OR MASKED ACTORS.

I HAVE described elsewhere Japanese and Chinese theatrical performances and a Malay operetta, and I now propose to give a short description of an entertainment, which is, I believe, a speciality of Java, and which has grown out of the "Wayang," or Marionette Show, popular both in that island and in the Malay Peninsula.

In the Archæological Museum at Cambridge is a good collection of the curious and sometimes weird figures used in such shows; and when one has seen a performance of the "Topeng Dalang," or Masked Actors, one realises that it is the outcome of the more primitive entertainment in which these figures are used, their movements being controlled by strings, and appropriate speech being contributed by the "Dalan," or Orator, behind the scenes.

For, although the "Topeng Dalang" are living performers, they all wear masks more or less fatuous, hideous, comic, or senile in character, to a certain extent reproductions of the grotesque features of the Marionettes.

I was fortunate in having an opportunity to see one of their performances, and I noticed that the actors put on their masks as they walked on the stage, and took them off as they retired. None of them spoke; but as they went through the ordinary scenes of love, despair, rage, and murder, the words of the play emanated from the wings in a voice corresponding to the sex and age of the actor and to the action taking place. Thus, when a man stabbed a

TOPENG DALANG. MASKED.

woman with a Kris, his curse and her shriek tallied to a nicety with the movements.

I was much interested, and expressed to the friend who accompanied me and was acquainted with the language, a desire to go behind the scenes and see how it was done. We accordingly interviewed the Impresario, who proved to be a Chinaman; but in response to our request he said, with a leer, that he never allowed European gentlemen to go behind the scenes. A silver key, however, proved effective, and we were received very graciously by the performers, especially the ladies, who showed us their masks, which were made of thin wood or a sort of papier mâché, and were held in position in front of the face by means of a stiff tab on the inside, which they took between their teeth as they went on to the stage. How they managed to breathe under such circumstances for so long a time without opening the mouth seemed to me a marvel; but it was no doubt the result of long training and practice.

The girls were small and slight in build, but their faces could not be called pretty according to European standards; while the men had a nasty habit of chewing betel nut, and would every now and then move their masks on one side to expectorate.

We were next introduced to the "Dalan," or Orator, upon whom fell the whole of the speaking part of the performance. He sat at the back of the stage where he could not be seen, but where he could see all the performers, from time to time punctuating the play by striking a sheet of metal to give himself breathing time, during which periods the players themselves paused temporarily in their action. The words were recited from memory, and the rapid changes in voice and tone from male to female, from supplication to reproach, from a vigorous curse to a dying groan, and through all the moods of a somewhat long play, were simply marvellous.

I must not forget the "Gamelan," or Orchestra, which

was behind the scenes and consisted of fifteen members who played upon metal vessels of different sizes, arranged in rows, which gave out most sweet and liquid sounds: a dulcimer, a fiddle, a flute blown at the end, gongs, and cymbals. The effects produced were most musical.

For a consideration my friend was allowed the next morning to take photographs of the actors, both masked and unmasked, and these, which are here reproduced, I believe to be absolutely unique.

TOPENG DALANG. UNMASKED.

HOW I SCALED PENTELIKON.

I WAS once stranded in Athens, that is to say, I was there on business, intending to cross from Piræus to Alexandria; but, owing to an outbreak of cholera, the passenger steamers usually touching at the former port were prohibited from landing passengers there, and it seemed likely that I should have to retrace my steps to Naples or perhaps even to Genoa in order to cross the Mediterranean. I ultimately succeeded in obtaining a passage as explained in the chapter on "The Humours of Quarantine"; but in the meantime, having finished my business, time began to hang heavily on my hands.

I had, on the occasion of a previous visit, gone over the Acropolis with the ruins of its magnificent Parthenon, the Hall of the Caryatides, its Temple of Athene Nike (reconstructed by German architects), and at its base the Odeon of Herodus Atticus and the world-renowned Theatre of Dionysus, described as the cradle of Greek dramatic art. I had seen the Tower of the Winds, the so-called Lantern of Diogenes; the Areopagus, famous as the spot whence Paul preached to the Athenians from the Hill of Mars; and all the other important ruins and historical spots of ancient Athens, not forgetting the excavations of the ancient cemetery, or Street of Tombs, with its beautiful monuments, discovered as lately as 1862, and even now only partially re-opened.

I had spent several hours in the National Museum

among more or less damaged specimens of Ancient Greek art; and my mind now seemed to refuse to go back to circumstances which occurred so long ago, or to revel in the mutilated or even restored fragments of buildings and works of art, which, however beautiful in their time, now failed to appeal to me. This feeling has often come over me when I have found myself for the second or third time in a place where on the first visit I was captivated by my contact with antiquity, or carried away by the novelty of my surroundings, and I suppose it has been due to the same feeling which actuated the old Athenians themselves, who, according to St. Paul, were always seeking after some new thing.

Possibly also the inconvenience of my position and the fact that, like the starling in Stern's "Sentimental Journey," I couldn't get out, affected my feelings; but in any case it was a relief to me when a German whom I had met on the voyage from Brindisi to Patras, and who like myself was cholera-bound in Athens, called at my hotel to ask if on the following Sunday I would join him in an excursion to Pentelikon, a mountain celebrated for its marble quarries, whence from time immemorial supplies have been drawn for the buildings and statuary of the city.

He was of a somewhat economical turn of mind and proposed that we should go as far as possible by rail, and do the rest of the journey on foot; but on my consulting my dragoman he said that this involved a climb of some three hours or more over the roughest ground it was possible to imagine, and that the proper way for gentlemen to go (and he laid a somewhat sarcastic stress on the word "gentlemen") was to take a carriage to the Convent of Mendéli, lunch there, and ascend thence on donkeys. He added that it would be necessary to send donkeys on beforehand and to take our lunch with us.

Upon this basis, therefore, the excursion was arranged, my dragoman was to accompany us, and each was to bring

his own luncheon basket ; and early on the Sunday morning a lumbering landau of the Oriental type, drawn by a pair of powerful horses, drew up at the door of the " Hotel de la Grande Bretagne," where I was staying. The luncheon baskets were stowed on the front seat, the dragoman took his place beside the coachman, and off we went.

The road to the Convent presented no special features beyond a typical village said to have been the birthplace of Socrates, soon after passing through which it began to ascend by numerous turns until at a height of 1,200 feet we reached the Convent of Mendéli, one of the principal establishments of the kind in this part of Greece.

Here we alighted from the carriage, and under the shade of the plane trees in front of the Convent we partook of our luncheon ; and this necessary task accomplished, prepared for our donkey ride.

Drawn up and awaiting us at the Convent door were two fine animals, such as are seen in Egypt but never in England ; and with them was the guide who was to accompany us in the ascent, the dragoman awaiting our return at Mendéli. This guide was a fine man nearly six feet in height and well proportioned, dressed in national costume consisting of a white fustanella (or kilt), knee breeches, thick woollen stockings and red shoes with turned up and betasselled toes; above the kilt an open blue jacket, showing an embroidered shirt beneath, and on his head a fez with a blue tassel.

It pleased us to look upon him as a perfect specimen of the Greek race ; but from what I have been told and have read, the modern Greek like the modern Englishman is of decidedly mixed origin, and among the many varieties from which he has sprung the Albanian stock is an important factor. The dress, indeed, is Albanian, and the people of that race took a leading part in the Greek War of Independence early in the nineteenth century.

Whatever may have been his origin, however, our guide

was a fine specimen of a man, with considerable powers of endurance, as we soon found when our climb began. I learned that he was supplied by the Convent, and I had my suspicions that that establishment supplied the donkeys also, and that they had not been sent out from Athens; but to send them such a distance would naturally cost more and enable the dragoman to make a useful addition to the account—and dragomans, however intelligent and faithful, are but human after all, especially in the districts where they bear that distinctive name.

We mounted our donkeys, a "good old man" (as the monks are called) and our dragoman wished us a successful journey—the former in Greek, which neither of us understood—and we started on our road, my donkey leading. Gradually we began to rise, and we approached the ancient quarries, the path being strewn with fragments of Pentelic marble, mostly creamy white, but occasionally mixed with variegated colours, and some of quartz-like formation.

Pentelikon (or, as it is frequently called in English, Pentelicus) rises 3,600 feet above the sea level, and 2,400 feet above the Mendéli Convent, and about half way up from the latter is a Stalactite Cavern, which we did not enter, and a more interesting ruined chapel (or "Eremoklisia" as it is called) with remains of frescoes on the walls and a lamp still burning. Such ruined chapels are numerous in Greece, though who attends to them and keeps the light going I do not know.

At this point my German companion, who up to now had been riding behind me, suggested that he might take the lead, a suggestion in which I readily concurred; and I reined in my donkey to allow him to pass me. But neither persuasion not force would induce his animal to move, and our guide, who had hitherto been trudging silently and stolidly at our side over the marble strewn pathway, endeavoured in vain to explain to us the reason, for neither of us understood the other's language, and he understood

none but his own. Verbal explanation failing, he resorted to demonstration, and we then gathered that if my companion wished to go in front the only way to accomplish this would be for us to change donkeys, which we accordingly did, and our journey was continued.

Before starting from Athens we had been told that it was not much good going beyond the Cavern, as the summit of the mountain was usually enveloped in mist, and the magnificent view thence obtainable was very rarely seen. We had, however, come out to see it, if possible, and were not disposed to turn back ; so on we pressed over the broken pieces of marble, the leading donkey threading his way to the right or left, or going straight ahead as his instinct dictated, and my own animal following closely behind him; while our guide walked with the greatest stoicism over the rough road which would have torn our own boots to pieces and probably have sprained our ankles into the bargain.

No pathway was now apparent, but gradually the fragments of marble grew less and less numerous, and the leading donkey still marched on without word of command or direction from the guide, until at last an exclamation from the latter (the words of which were unintelligible to us) told us that we had reached the summit ; and we were delighted to find that the atmosphere was clear, and that the whole of the renowned panorama was distinctly visible.

We sprang from our steeds—or in other words we dismounted from our donkeys—and the guide taking their bridles began to describe the scene to us, but all we could understand was a few of the names and more particularly that of Marathon. Athens we could see for ourselves with the mountain ranges in the background, but Marathon, which is the *pièce de résistance*, required pointing out, and our attention was soon riveted upon the historical plain and the bay beyond. I found it, however, difficult to raise any enthusiasm, for, history and Byron notwithstanding, a battle which took place 500 years B.C. scarcely appeals to

one surveying the scene some 2,400 years later, any more than does "The destruction of Sennacherib's army," except for the beauty of its verse; and even the comparatively recent battle of Hastings, as described by a bucolic guide at Battle Abbey, falls somewhat flat after a lapse of less than 900 years.

However, we had not much time for contemplation or historical retrospect, for within a few minutes of our arrival the mist began to encircle Pentelikon, and the whole scene was soon blotted out. We looked in vain for any remnant of the ruins of the Statue of Athena which once crowned the mountain; and urged by the gestures of our conductor, who was evidently anxious to make a start before the mist became too thick, we remounted our donkeys and prepared for the descent. I had now changed back to my original animal, which led, and the way in which he followed the invisible track without hesitation or fault until we again reached the quarries was to me nothing short of marvellous. I was informed afterwards that a donkey able to do this was considered a valuable beast, and it was explained to me, as regards our second animal, that it was a learner, which, by following an experienced leader, gradually became acquainted with the route, and that until it felt sure of the track nothing would induce it to pass him; and that even if the ascent was made by one person only, a second donkey (this is not intended for a joke!) was usually taken in order to further its education.

The descent was more rapid than, but not so agreeable as the ascent; and as one of the principal objects we now had in view was to keep our seats we had less time to devote to the old workings we passed on the way. But we could not but be impressed by the difficulties which, in the remote days in which they were worked, and with the somewhat primitive tools, appliances and vehicles then in use, had to be surmounted by the workers in hewing, lifting and transporting the immense blocks of marble required for the

magnificent buildings and incomparable statuary which in those early days graced not only the Athenian capital, but also many other towns much more distant.

Incidentally I may mention that the marble of Pentelikon is not of such a brilliant white hue and does not look so brittle as that of Carrara in Italy, being of a somewhat yellow tint, finely grained and apparently harder; while years seem to add to its beauty, as is apparent from the statuary recovered from time to time from the ancient ruins.

We reached the Mendéli Convent again in due course, again placed ourselves under the care of our dragoman, and arrived in Athens in time for dinner, the excursion having taken about ten hours; and I certainly recommend it to anyone visiting Athens and having sufficient time at disposal.

DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND.

I HAVE noticed in various books written by travellers, and more particularly recently, that the opinions held locally as to the commercial morality of the Chinaman and the Jap respectively are considered to be unwarranted, and the conclusions drawn exaggerated and erroneous. But although an intelligent traveller or visitor may be able to form some general opinions from what, after all, can only be casual observation, it seems to me obvious that these cannot weigh against the long and practical experience of foreign residents who have for many years been in trading relations with both; and I can only say that my own information, obtained from those moving in the highest financial and mercantile circles both in China and Japan, is to the effect that the Chinese merchant or trader is far more honourable and reliable in his transactions than the Japanese.

Possibly political events and the treaty arrangements recently entered into with Japan have given colour to views lately expressed, as they have certainly given impetus to the loans which have been promptly raised on the strength of such arrangements; but it remains to be seen how far both views and loans have been justified, and it is only to be hoped, as far as investors are concerned, that there may not some day be a rude awakening.

It is neither my province nor within the scope of this chapter to make invidious comparisons, even if my personal

knowledge permitted of my doing so ; but I heard on all hands in the Far East that the Chinaman had far greater stability of character, was more truthful and less tricky than the Japanese, who is of a more volatile disposition, has a greater desire for amusements, and is less constant both in his domestic and business relations.

From the time of Will Adams, the Japanese have always been endeavouring to get all they can out of the foreigner, and to give as little as possible in return. This is realised by the visitor to Japan when he finds that the railways were constructed and run originally by Britons (the notices, tables of fares, etc., at many of the stations still being put up in both the Japanese and English languages), that most of the large cotton mills and even the Government Mint at Osaka were similarly constructed and worked ; but that now not a Briton is employed in either one or other of these directions, all having been discharged, as soon as their brains had been sufficiently sucked to enable the natives to carry on the work for themselves.

These are only a few instances, and many others might be adduced in connection with contracts and other matters to show that too much reliance should not be placed upon the Japanese, the opinions in mercantile circles being that they will back out of any engagement if it suits them and an excuse can be found for doing so.

The Chinaman on the other hand, while peculiar in his methods, and shrewd, clever, and cunning to a degree, is usually a man of his word, and his respect for his parents and ancestors becomes in many matters a powerful factor for good in his dealings, as the following incident goes to show.

A Chinaman called one day at the office of a European merchant, and said (in Pidjin-English, which I do not reproduce), " You have my father's receipt (meaning promissory-note) for $5,000 in connection with a silk transaction many years ago. He is dead, but I found this

memorandum among his papers, and I have come to pay the money."

Nobody in the office knew anything of the matter, the transaction having taken place before the then-resident partners and European assistants had come out; but a promise was made that it should be looked into, and the Chinaman was to call again the next day. In the meantime the case was traced and the promissory-note found, and when the latter was produced to the Chinaman he looked at the seal, laid the paper down, and began to count out the $5,000 plus interest at 10 per cent. per annum, which he insisted upon paying, explaining that this was "shame face pidjin," or a matter of honour, rather than of business!

This respect for ancestors is practically the Chinaman's religion, although missionaries, for reasons best known to themselves, but inscrutable to others, decry and desire to eradicate it. To my mind the feeling is a most laudable one, and it would be well if all the methods of missionaries were equally praiseworthy.

The same feeling is, I believe, part of the system of the Shinto religion which obtains in Japan; but when I asked my guide, on the occasion of a visit to a Shinto temple, to explain this religion to me, he said "It is not for men, but only for women and children," so that I suppose it would not have much influence upon the trading classes there.

But in dealings between the two races it is often a case of "diamond cut diamond," and the following incident, related to me by a merchant, who had lived for very many years in Yokohama, and who assured me that it was perfectly true and within his own knowledge, may be taken as a case in point.

Just at the time when petroleum was being introduced into Japan, a certain Chinaman had bought for delivery within six months 1,000 barrels of seed oil at $80; but the first deliveries of the mineral oil caused a fall in prices, and the value of the seed oil gradually went down to $40.

The Chinaman went to his Guild and explained the position, and the Compradores having given the matter consideration decided that he must complete the purchase ; but unfortunately for him he did not see his way to making up the loss of $40,000. The matter was reconsidered, the Guild decided to pay, and the money was handed to him.

Off went the Chinaman to a well-known firm, and the following conversation ensued :—

" You have ship here, *Mary Jane ?* "

" Yes ! "

" You give charter ? "

" Yes ! "

" Go Hakodate side ? "

" Yes ! "

" Fill up oilum ? "

" Yes ! "

" Show me charter-paper ! " (which was done).

" You fill up paper show how read ? " (which was also done).

Then continued the Chinaman :

" Have partner inside this pidjin—s'pose I show charter-paper, he say, ' Not good—no name.' "

" You puttee your name here ! " (and this was done).

Next, the Chinaman goes to the Japanese merchant and enquires why he does not deliver to him the 1,000 barrels of oil, the time for delivery having nearly expired ; but the Jap taunts him with being a fool at business and suggests that the best thing he can do is to hand over the $40,000 difference in value, and think himself well out of the transaction.

" You not can give oilum ? You thinkee me fool pidjin ? " says John, and off he goes to the Kencho (magistrate), and with tears in his eyes produces the agreement to deliver 1,000 barrels of oil within six months ; but his Worship points out that the price of seed oil has gone down, that the oil now goes to other markets, and further,

that the law punishes gambling in oil! The Chinaman produces his $80,000, "No gamble oilum—good pidjin—have charter-paper," says he, and shows the form signed by the Agents of the *Mary Jane*; "Want oilum sent Hakodate side."

Then the Kencho sends for the Jap and enquires why the oil has not been delivered. The Jap smiles, but the production of the $80,000 and the charter-party alter his tone, and the Kencho tells him to go outside and settle the matter with the Chinaman at once, or trouble may ensue.

Outside, John wants nothing but his oil, and reminds the Vendor that gambling in oil is punishable with imprisonment; and ultimately the Jap pays him $10,000 to get out of the contract.

The Chinaman then calls upon the Agents of the *Mary Jane*, thanks them for the loan of the charter-party paper, and informs them that unfortunately he cannot obtain delivery of the oil, and consequently cannot charter the vessel, at the same time offering them $2,000 for any inconvenience which may have been caused to them—which, as no agreement had been come to, they were quite ready to accept. He then goes back to his Guild, returns the $80,000, and comes out of the transaction with $8,000 in his pocket. Not such "fool pidjin" after all!

This case leads me to mention the numerous and powerful Guilds existing in China, in many respects similar to the old trade Guilds of the Hanse Towns and of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Antwerp, at one time the principal ports of Northern Europe, except that these latter were associations of merchants and ship owners, whereas the former not only assist the members in matters financial or commercial, but also provide and guarantee competent and reliable "Compradores" to European firms, who, without such assistance, would be unable to enter into business transactions with natives, or indeed to carry on business at all.

The name "Compradore," as is, of course, generally known, is obtained from the Portuguese, and merely signifies an accountant, a cashier, or other person charged with the handling of money, and it is somewhat remarkable that it should have survived to the present day. It no doubt has a Chinese equivalent, but it is unknown to me, for the word "Compradore" is in use not merely in China, but throughout the Far East generally, and the individual thus named plays an important part in Eastern trade, and not only holds a responsible position, but is in nearly all cases a man of considerable means.

No important transactions can be carried out except through him; to him the Banker, Merchant, Manufacturer, and Shipper look for reliable information as to persons and prices; and as far as my knowledge goes, there are very few cases indeed in which he abuses the confidence reposed in him; and when such cases do occur, the guarantee of his Guild (if he is thus guaranteed) makes good the loss which may have been sustained, provided always that the proofs are satisfactory. It is, I believe, a very serious matter for a Compradore to be ostracised by his Guild; but as no one was able to give me any information upon the point, such circumstances being so rare, I am unable to say what may be the result to him of any departure from integrity.

I said above "if he is thus guaranteed," for in some cases of small and comparatively unimportant concerns Compradores are employed who are not members of a Guild, though in such instances they usually furnish some tangible security. And this is necessary, from a business point of view, for all the financial transactions of a firm pass through his hands; he buys, sells, collects money, and generally undertakes every duty of a pecuniary nature; except that he is not responsible for bad coins, the examination of cash being undertaken by another official known as a "shroff," whose business it is to examine every coin received, and reject such as are doubtful or spurious.

The Compradore is usually (in fact, as far as my own observation goes, I may say " always ") a quiet, dignified, self-contained and shrewd man, and that he is also imbued with a certain sense of his own importance is, perhaps, not to be wondered at under the circumstances of his position and the nature of his employment.

I have been frequently referred to them for information or assistance which I was otherwise unable to obtain, and have found them likewise most obliging and sufficiently communicative ; and I was much interested and surprised when in Japan at the time of the Japanese-Chinese War, to find Chinamen still employed as Compradores in merchant's offices, and as Godown (Warehouse) keepers, it being explained to me that sufficient confidence was not placed in the native race to warrant the cash or the keys being entrusted to them.

Another incident, which rather astonished me, was to learn from an important mercantile house at a Chinese treaty port that their office work cost them nothing (and the staff was by no means a small one), all the clerks being supplied by the Compradore, who made himself responsible for them, without any charge for his own or their services in this direction. A natural question for a new comer to put in such a case was : " In what way then is the Compradore remunerated ? " and the answer I received was an eye-opener to one then very slightly acquainted with Chinese methods. It was " Squeezes ! "

Now, I had a sort of hazy idea that " Squeezes " meant commission ; but how the system was worked I did not know until it was explained to me, and the explanation, put tersely, was as follows :—

" We are merchants," said my informant, " and among other things we buy and sell, say, silk. But, personally, we take no direct part in a transaction. When a parcel of good silk is to be bought at a favourable price, the Compradore lets us know, and we authorise the purchase, and

when an opportunity arises to sell at a profit, he comes to us with the necessary information ; but whether we buy or whether we sell, he afterwards comes to us for his ' squeeze,' and not only to us but also to the vendor or the purchaser as the case may be—in other words he takes a commission from both sides, and from what he thus receives he not only keeps the office going, but is probably putting by a competency for his old age."

In reply to further enquiries I learned that there was no agreed rate of commission, if I may still so call a " squeeze," but that the payment was practically regulated by custom according to the article and the circumstances, that it was generally recognised and understood, and that, although upon the face of it, the system seemed open to abuses, in practice it worked quite satisfactorily to all parties concerned.

I have, I fear, wandered away from my original subject, which was a comparison of Chinese with Japanese ; but my reference to the Compradore will, I think, show the confidence placed by European merchants in the former ; a confidence, which, as far as I am aware, has not yet been extended to the latter.

A LITTLE BIT OF SPOOF.

It is only natural that on board ship when time frequently hangs heavily on the hands of the passengers, the younger and more volatile of them should occasionally indulge in practical jokes; and, so long as these are of a harmless and not too personal a character, I do not know that there is much to be said against them, though it is always as well to be on one's guard against such pastimes.

I was once on a vessel, one of the passengers in which had bought a small monkey of which he proposed to make a pet, and he had it in his cabin. Two days after we left the port at which he purchased it the monkey escaped from the cabin, while its owner was at luncheon, and, climbing the rigging, had to be fetched down by an A.B., not without some personal risk. The recovery cost the owner half-a-crown; and at frequent intervals the same thing occurred with the same result, until the animal was placed under the charge of the butcher, one of whose duties and perquisites it is to look after all live stock, whether furred or feathered.

No doubt in this case the practical joker was at work, but no great harm was done, and the thing amused the passengers generally if not the one principally concerned.

On another occasion, however, practical joking brought about very strained relations not only between the parties immediately interested, but also many of the other passengers, who either sided with the joker or sympathised with his victim; and the voyage threatened to be rather an unpleasant one in consequence.

With a view to throwing oil upon the troubled waters it was decided to have a concert in the Smoking Room, and I was asked to take the chair and make a few encouraging remarks, it being explained to me by the promoter of the entertainment, that although perhaps the joker had, in this case, gone a little too far, he was not in any way animated by personal motives, and that the whole thing was simply "a bit of spoof."

I must admit that in my innocence the inner meaning of the word "spoof" was unknown to me, and it was certainly not a pastime to which I was personally addicted; and perhaps this and the knowledge that I had taken neither part nor sides in the game, and was on friendly terms with both parties, was the reason why my services were called into requisition.

I am not a good public speaker, but I did my best, and after opening the proceedings with a few jocular remarks (that is to say, as near to "jocular" as I could get), I said that it would be a pity for our agreeable evenings in the Smoking Room to be marred by any unpleasantness, and that I hoped that the little cloud which had arisen would that evening be dispersed. And it was, for, before I had finished speaking, friends on both sides had jumped up and brought the parties together; there was a general shaking of hands, and the whole gathering burst into song with "For he's a jolly good fellow," though it was certainly not obvious who was the particular "fellow" they had in view.

And then followed an amusing scene! Three of the younger and more excitable members of the company "rushed" the Bar, took off their coats, turned the Bar Steward out; and while one handed round boxes of the best cigars, the others opened bottles of champagne, and mixed whiskeys and sodas and other liquid refreshments, and passed "drinks" round promiscuously, while the Steward calmly stood outside with a sheet of paper and a pencil, taking such notes as were possible in the excitement which

prevailed, with a view to a subsequent settlement. I was inclined to think that this was not the first time he had been placed in that position !

In a short time the excitement subsided, the amateur " Bar-tenders " resumed their coats, toasts were drunk (mostly with honours), good humour prevailed, good fellowship was restored, and the concert proceeded, or rather commenced, as these were only preliminaries.

Meanwhile the Steward had made up his account (a fairly heavy one), and I naturally expected that some of the company (including myself) would be asked later on to make up the amount ; but nothing of the kind happened, the three amateurs paid the bill, and when I afterwards expressed to one of the moving spirits my desire to contribute I was met with, " Nothing of the kind, my boy ! Peace was cheap at the price !"

But practical joking does not always end thus satisfactorily, and I have in mind a case which terminated in a very different manner, and the details of which were so well thought out, and in some respects so amusing that I am tempted to describe the occurrence, though, it will, of course, be understood that the names given are not actually those of the performers in the little drama.

The s.s. *Norman* was lying at the quay at Cape Town ready to cast off for her homeward voyage, and the passengers, having found their cabins and stowed their belongings were waving last adieux to friends and relations. Among them was a Mr. Smith, a man rather past middle age, somewhat provincial in style and appearance, who, like many others, had no friends to see him off, and who stood silently surveying the scene. But though at the moment he was silent, it was not because he was tongue-tied or retiring, for he gradually got into conversation with one and another, and it was evident that he was of an enquiring turn of mind, for other people's business seemed to interest him greatly, and he was not slow in asking questions.

The vessel cast off, some of the passengers went below to arrange their cabins and others sat on deck chairs and enjoyed the distant view of the city and the celebrated Table Mountain behind it. Among the latter was a Mr. Temple, who was sitting near Smith, and with whom the latter soon opened up a conversation, and, having found that he was a commercial traveller, asked :

" What do you travel in ? "

To which the reply was, " Birds ! "

" Well, well," said Smith, " this is the first time I ever met a man travelling in that line," and he proceeded to make various enquiries upon this interesting topic.

" Samples ? Oh, yes, I take samples with me," said Temple, " but I generally dispose of them before I sail, though this time I have a few left. Where do I keep them ? Oh ! down there," pointing to the main deck between the first and second classes, the domain of the butcher, where several birds in cages were hanging, for some passengers invariably have pets with them, and the feathered ones are hung out here in fine weather to get the air.

" Would you like to come and look at them ? "

" Certainly," was Smith's reply.

And away they both went for this purpose.

The birds were principally canaries, and one of them was singing lustily as they approached.

" Now there," said Temple, " is a perfect beauty, cheap at £5, in fact, I could have sold him for that if I had had time to run over to Simon's Town before I left ; but I would let him go now at half-price rather than have to take him home with me, as I have several calls to make in Southampton on my arrival."

Smith looked at the bird critically, probably knowing as little about canaries as Temple himself, who really travelled for a well-known firm of carpet manufacturers, and whose samples were not in cages, but in bulky leather cases, which I had seen put on board.

"Make it £2," said Smith, "and I will buy him with a warranty; but it must be understood that I will not pay" (and here his commercial instinct showed itself) "or take delivery until we land at Southampton, and then only if he is in good condition."

The bargain was struck, and for several days Smith went down regularly to see how the bird was getting on, much to the amusement of those who were "in the know," including the real owner, a comely looking woman with two little children; and I really think that in his mind he resented the attentions paid by the good woman to her pet as an infringement upon his prospective rights.

One day the bird escaped, fluttered about and around the vessel for some time, until it was tired, when it settled on the edge of the awning, and was caught by a seaman and returned to its cage. Smith was very excited, reminded Temple that he was not going to pay until delivery in Southampton, and gave the seaman a shilling, which was received with a badly-concealed grin.

But, in the meantime, Smith had "got on the nerves" of several of the passengers, and more particularly the younger men, towards whom he assumed a paternal attitude which was much resented, and whom he plied with enquiries as to whence they came, whither they were going, what their occupation was, etc. In reply he had received various more or less fabulous family histories, for young men who had been in South Africa "on their own" were not, at all events at that time, likely to "give themselves away," and certainly not to a man of Smith's calibre.

One in particular had told him in the strictest confidence a lurid tale of his sad life in Johannesburg and his desire to reform himself; and as he informed us in the Smoking Room had "fed the old fool up a treat."

He was a smart, gentlemanly young fellow of about five and twenty, whom we will call "Wells," and it having been arranged by some of the young bloods to

give Mr. Smith a lesson, he agreed to "lead off," as he put it.

Now, on all long voyages, it is the practice to put up soon after mid-day a notice showing the number of miles the vessel has gone since the previous mid-day. This is known as the ship's "run," and at one time it was usual to have a daily sweepstake on the event, while those with sporting instincts were, and, I presume still are, inclined to make it a subject for betting.

The information is furnished by the Chief Engineer to the Captain in the first instance, and it is understood that until the notice has been put up, the strictest reticence is to be observed by all the ship's officers upon the subject.

One afternoon when walking the deck with Smith, Wells approached him thus:

"Mr. Smith, you are a man of experience and knowledge of the world, you have given me good advice, and I look upon you as a friend. I now want your kind assistance in a little difficulty which has arisen between myself and Mr. Collins. We had a bet this morning of £25 on the run, and he won; but I have since been told that before he made the bet he had received private information from one of the engineers. Meanwhile I had paid him, but I should like to have your advice as to what it is best for me to do under the circumstances. I know it was foolish of me to make so heavy a bet, and I cannot well afford to lose so large a sum; but the point really is, was Collins justified in taking my money, and what steps I ought to take in the matter?"

Smith was highly flattered both by the allusion to his experience and worldly wisdom, and by the appeal thus made to him; but he was furious about the supposed action of Mr. Collins.

"What," said he, "do you mean that dark, sinister-looking man who sits at the First Officer's table? I should not have thought it of him, he seems such a quiet man; but it only shows how we may be deceived. It is simply

disgraceful, and particularly for a man of his age to take a mean advantage of the kind over a young man like yourself."

Wells winced, for this constant reference to youthfulness was a sore point, and he was, moreover, quite capable of taking care of himself; but he merely replied that that was the man he meant, though he scarcely thought him sinister-looking.

They walked on together for a few minutes in silence, which was broken at last by Smith saying:

"The question is certainly a delicate one; but I tell you what I will do. I will speak to Collins myself, and see what he has to say on the subject."

Nothing could have suited the conspirators better, and after a further short conversation it was settled that this course should be adopted.

Smith had had very little communication with Collins, but as the latter told the habitués of the Smoking Room later on, the old man approached him very cautiously, and he let him say all he had to say. When he had finished, however, Collins said:

"So, then, you say I am a cheat, Mr. Smith; but even if I am I should like to know what business it is of yours? If you were a younger man I'd knock spots off of you. Why doesn't Wells speak to me himself if he has any grievance?"

Smith was somewhat startled at the turn the matter had taken, but he was evidently not a coward, and he proceeded, though in a somewhat more apologetic manner; while Collins, apparently moved by his arguments, and assuring him that there must be some misapprehension, became less aggressive, and ultimately on Smith's suggestion agreed to discuss the matter further with Wells and himself in a quiet way in the Smoking Room.

A time was chosen when the room was not much occupied, and in a quiet corner the conference took place; and all the imaginary details having been solemnly discussed, Smith suggested that as Collins would not refund the

money, and strongly denied that he had acted upon any private information, the matter might be referred to the decision of some competent and impartial person. To this Collins with great magnanimity consented, and Wells, having mentioned that there was on board a legal gentleman, a "Q.C.," he thought, who might be willing to undertake the responsibility, he further agreed to be bound by the decision of this gentleman if Mr. Smith would kindly approach him, and lay the circumstances before him.

The result of the conference was that Collins rose highly in Smith's esteem, and that Smith undertook to approach the legal luminary, who was certainly an important and dignified-looking man, but who, so I was given to understand, knew much more about the wholesale clothing trade than about the law.

Another private meeting was held, the legal luminary thought it was a case for compromise, and suggested that one-half of the money should be refunded; and Collins completely won Smith's heart by "planking down" the money on the table then and there.

I need not say that Smith rather prided himself upon the result of his action; and the details having got about, several of the young men, who were in the game, congratulated him and thanked him for intervening—while Collins was content to remain for a time rather under a cloud, as having made the best of a bad job.

I expected the laugh to come in here, and that Smith would be told the whole thing had been a joke; but I was mistaken, for the jokers were remorseless, and the "little bit of spoof" had only just begun.

Among the passengers was a fine, tall, and sturdy man, named Joubert, who, although very pleasant when he did speak, was very retiring and spoke very little. He was, I believe, a mining engineer, or expert; but he now assumed an entirely different *rôle*.

Smith had become very friendly with Collins, and the

two frequently strolled the deck together; and Joubert one day, opening a conversation with the former, said to him:

"Mr. Smith, I notice that you are very friendly with that man Collins, and I want in the strictest confidence to put you on your guard against him. He is not what he appears to be. I cannot tell you all I know, but as you are evidently a kind-hearted man, and I should not like to see you imposed upon, I thought it my duty to warn you."

Whether Smith mentioned this to Collins or not I do not know, but their friendship remained unchanged; and the next scene in the drama commenced shortly afterwards, when the latter took the former into his confidence. He told him that he was in the diamond line of business, had some parcels of valuable stones with him which he was taking to London, but that he found it important he should land at Madeira (which we were then approaching); and mentioning the great confidence which he felt he could repose in Smith, asked him if he would deliver the stones to his firm in Hatton Garden, when they would, upon a letter which he would write to them, give him £200 for his trouble.

I may mention here that among other characteristics Smith had shown himself to be somewhat avaricious, and he jumped at the offer; and I may add that the diamonds had been carefully prepared, under the supervision of a real diamond expert, from a piece of thick glass, such as might be used for a portlight, and had been wrapped by the said expert in papers of the size and shape adopted in the trade.

Collins took Smith into his cabin, showed him the diamonds, made a little parcel of the papers which contained them, and carefully sealed it; and then wrote the promised letter, which he gave to Smith, so that, as he said, he might be on the safe side and hand the communication to the firm before actually parting with the stones.

Smith took the parcel and the letter to his own cabin and carefully concealed them, and everything would no

doubt have gone on satisfactorily had not Collins come to him later in the evening, evidently in a state of excitement, and told him that he had just found out that Joubert was a detective, and that he feared he might have trouble with him upon the question of I.D.B. (the South African abbreviation for "Illicit Diamond Buying," a criminal offence).

"But," said he, "you sit tight on the stones, and I shall slip off to-morrow morning at Madeira and he will think I have taken them with me. In case, however, you should have any difficulty it is just as well you should be armed," and here he thrust a revolver into his hand. Smith was now in a state of abject terror, said he had never used a revolver, was afraid of firearms, would not be mixed up in anything of the kind, and insisted upon getting out the diamonds and giving them back; but before he could do so, Collins slipped out of the cabin, and left him to his own thoughts and devices.

As is usual in dramas, events move quickly in the last scene, and Smith had not long to wait for the denouement. Not many minutes after Collins had left there was a tap at his cabin door, and Joubert entered, and at once explained the object of his visit, by saying:

"So, so, *Mr.* Smith, I was mistaken in you after all, and need not have warned you against Collins, as you are evidently his accomplice. I have a warrant for his arrest on a charge of I.D.B., but was not certain of my man until to-day, for he is, of course, travelling under an assumed name, and has altered his personal appearance. Without a warrant I cannot search your cabin, but if you make a clean breast of it now, it will go in your favour."

Smith assured Joubert that he was under a misapprehension, and to his credit it must be said that he declined to make any statement, or, as the conspirators called it, "give Collins away"; and Joubert (who was, of course, on very delicate ground) withdrew.

A short time afterwards the Ship's Doctor appeared in the Smoking Room, and claiming the attention of those present, said :

" Gentlemen, I have just come from Mr. Smith's cabin to tell you that the little game which some of you have been playing on him has gone far enough, in fact, too far ; and I must ask you not to pursue it. He is in a state of utter collapse, and I very much fear that it will be some days before I can pull him round. It is not, of course, my business to ask any questions, but I have brought with me a revolver and a parcel of diamonds, which I will hand to the Smoking Room Steward, and those who are interested can obtain them from him."

This address was received in various ways ; some said " Serve him right too," others " I told you we were going a bit too far," and some of the older men remarked that the perpetrators of the joke "ought to be ashamed of themselves" ; but the peculiar feature of the whole business was that nearly everyone, except Smith himself, knew more or less what was going on, and the conferences and conversations were all overheard by those who cared to listen.

However, Mr. Smith did not again put in an appearance, either in the Saloon, the Smoking Room, or on Deck ; he did not claim delivery of his canary at Southampton, nor did he land with the other passengers ; but I afterwards met him once or twice in London, and passed the time of day with him ; but I was very careful not to mention either Wells, Collins, or Joubert, or to refer to the criminal offence of I.D.B.

THE THEATRE IN JAPAN.

In visiting or passing through cities in all parts of the world there are certain things which have always interested me, and which I have never missed seeing when the opportunity has presented itself. Among these are Cathedrals, Mosques, Temples, Museums, and Picture Galleries; and, in the Levant and the Far East, theatrical and other native entertainments attracted me, not always on account of their intrinsic merits, but rather in view of their original, peculiar, and frequently grotesque features.

Elsewhere I have described Chinese, Malay and Javanese performances, and I now venture upon a short description of Japanese theatres. I say "venture" because so much has already been written upon the subject by others; and "short" because I do not propose to enter into it at such length as some of them have done.

In all the large Japanese towns there are streets devoted to amusements, many of which are of the class principally seen at fairs and variety entertainments, such as acrobats, contortionists, jugglers, what are known in the United States as "freaks," and other kindred attractions; but in all such districts, and even in other parts of the town there are also theatres, properly so-called, in which plays of more or less merit are given. These plays may commence in the morning and continue all day, or even for several days, or, on the other hand, several short plays may be given at intervals; and in both cases many of the dramas may be of

the blood and thunder variety, which appear to be the most popular—and pictures hung outside the building give startling presentations of the principal episodes, supported by long descriptive scrolls, which, however, were unintelligible to me.

The Japanese are a pleasure-loving people, and I found the theatre streets usually crowded ; but it struck me that the audiences were composed mainly of the lower-middle and working classes, the better classes being certainly conspicuous by their absence in those theatres which I visited—at least as far as I was able to judge.

There are several peculiarities in a Japanese playhouse which deserve incidental mention. The body of the auditorium is divided into numerous boxes (or perhaps " pens " would be a better name for them) separated by low wooden partitions, and each capable of holding from four to six persons. In these pens the audience squat (the holding capacity of the building being thus much less than if they were seated in rows), smoking, taking tea and other refreshments at their pleasure, and sometimes keeping up conversation regardless of the performance going on. There is usually also a gallery, sometimes more than one.

The stage is approached by means of a narrow gangway through the auditorium, so that one has a good view of the actor before he reaches the stage ; but it seemed to me that only the principal performers made use of this, and the manner in which they strutted along it savoured largely of the Vincent Crummel's school, and was to me, always amusing and sometimes ludicrous.

As to an orchestra, properly so called, there is none ; but in recesses in the wall near the stage, sometimes on one side only and in others on both sides of the house, and in some cases fenced in with a sort of trellis work, sit men with samisens, and occasionally also a drum, who every now and then give vent to hideous howls, or chant something in a harsh, discordant monotone to the accompaniment of their

instruments, the drum occasionally coming in with startling effect.

These are the Joruri singers, and they are very quaintly dressed. I asked my guide what object they served, and what they talked or sang about, and he explained to me that they were there " to help the actors " by giving them a rest at intervals, during which the Joruri extolled the virtues of the hero or heroine, denounced the vices of the villain, and explained the plot, in case any members of the audience had not followed it or had arrived late and been unable to pick up the threads—though if, as I understood, the same dramas are played over and over again, and are generally well known, the last-named service would appear somewhat superfluous.

The absence of a curtain in some cases, the revolving stage, the prompter sitting in full view of the audience and coming in at exciting moments with the audible assistance of a pair of wooden clappers (which he also apparently uses in a dual capacity as stage manager), the peculiar poses of the actors, the revolting and realistic details frequently introduced, and other features unusual elsewhere, are interesting to anyone who visits such a theatre for the first time ; but all these have been so frequently and so fully described that I do not propose to dilate upon them.

At about the time of my visit to Japan women appeared upon the stage as actresses for the first time, female parts having previously been taken by boys ; and so little was this generally known that an old resident of Yokohama assured me that I was mistaken, when I mentioned the fact to him, and was indeed inclined to be rude to me when I insisted upon my statement being correct. " It is true," he said, " that *dancing girls* have recently occasionally appeared upon the stage, but they have not mixed with men, and no females have ever taken speaking parts on the Japanese stage."

Incidentally it may not be uninteresting to recall here

that at one time female parts were taken in England by boys; and the first appearance of an actress on the English stage is said to have been at the Vere Street Theatre in London in 1660. The play was "The Moor of Venice," and the lady appeared as Desdemona, certain sections of society being much scandalised by the occurrence.

The innovation was not altogether favourably received, and for a long time actresses were looked down upon by their own sex and society in general; but as many were found to be of irreproachable character, their status, in common with that of the stage generally, improved; and Leigh Hunt, in his work "The Town, its memorable characters and events," referring to the marriages of actresses to noblemen and men of fortune, says: "since that time . . . the town are so far from being surprised at the marriages of actresses with people of rank or fashion, that they seem to look for them" —a condition of affairs which has continued to the present day.

Whether Japanese actresses have yet advanced to such matrimonial successes I do not know, and I should think it doubtful; but there is no doubt that Japan was at the time of my visit moving forward, and it is still doing so; and the introduction of actresses in that country, while female parts were then, and I believe, still are, taken by boys in China, was only another proof of their adoption of Western ideas.

It is not my intention to describe in detail a Japanese play. I had seen the traditional "hari-kari" business (I use the word in a theatrical sense), and other episodes equally revolting; and also some, to me, amusing incidents, as when the villain having been thrown into a lake properly clothed, was pulled out a minute later in rags and tatters by a confederate. Whether he fell upon rocks or had been attacked by crustaceans in the interval, was not explained; but the result, although it appealed strongly to the audience, seemed to me somewhat ludicrous.

In all these cases, however, the female parts had been taken by youths. But one afternoon my guide came to me in a state of suppressed excitement, saying :

" Sir, I hear that real women are acting now ; would you like to see them this evening ? "

I explained to him that the appearance of women on the stage would be no novelty to me ; but as he seemed to think it a marvellous occurrence, I said I would go, and accordingly we went.

What struck me most on entering the theatre was to find that there were two stages, one at either end of the building, and that both were provided with curtains, which was unusual; and further, that the gangway, by which the actors usually approached the stage, had been removed. These alterations evidently presaged something out of the common ; and the audience, which was a large one, was obviously anticipating agreeable surprises.

We were provided with seats (on cushions) in the principal gallery ; but after a short time, I found squatting rather uncomfortable, not having been brought up to tailoring, and was accommodated, for a consideration, with a chair, which, while it considerably enhanced my personal comfort, made me a centre of attraction to the audience, second only to the appearance of the ladies on the stage.

Although the " Joruri " singers did not open the proceedings (a circumstance for which I was grateful), I mention them first, as they were evidently specially got up for the occasion. There were two mural recesses, one near each stage, and in each of them sat two men dressed in black kimonos with white facings and large white epaulettes, their faces also whitened, and they reminded me of " Augustes " in a circus. But what they lacked in artistic appearance (speaking only from my own point of view) they made up for in noise ; for more hideous, ear-splitting and appalling sounds than those with which, from time to time, they punctuated the performance, it would be impossible to

imagine; and from the way they brought down the plectrums upon their samisens it was evident that this was one of the occasions of their lives, of which they were determined to make the most.

The first drama was played upon one stage only, and as far as I could understand it, an apprentice fell in love with his master's daughter; but his approaches being disapproved (although the maiden acted as if his passion was reciprocated), the father, mother, daughter, apprentice, and a faithful female retainer squatted in a row upon the stage, and the father, after cutting his throat with a razor, passed the blade on, and each person did the same thing in turn, until it reached the "faithful retainer" who calmly wiped it upon her kimono, and thus closed the scene.

The spurting out of blood from the wounds was most realistic, and appeared to be the point most appreciated by the audience, and my guide said that it was simply wonderful that anything of the kind could be done by "real women"; but the impression left upon me was that the "faithful retainer" was the only sane person in the company!

After an interval, a second play was commenced, and the curtain on the opposite side of the house was raised, showing an artistic tea-house, covered with wistarias and creeping flowers, and in it sat four ladies. The audience waxed most enthusiastic, and a general murmur went round showing how moved they were at the sight of four "real women" under such circumstances.

The ladies discoursed at first in a soft voice and monotonous style, but after a while they warmed up and became more audible and more animated; and when he had quite recovered from his surprise and excitement, Morita explained to me that the lady at the end of the tea-house represented a "real lady," the daughter of a Daimio (a feudal chieftain), and that the other three were her attendants—and that she was in love with a gentleman of inferior rank, who had been sent away; that she was very sorry (*sic*) and that

her attendants were trying to console her. The method of consolation adopted by two of them was to sigh and look as disconsolate as possible ; but the situation was saved by the third, evidently the female low comedian of the company, who said funny things to cheer her up, at least I assumed they were funny things, but I did not, of course, understand them, and Morita said he could not translate them. After an interminable discussion, however, it appears to have been decided that the " real lady " should write a letter to her lover, which she accordingly did, taking at least ten minutes over it, and not dashing it off with a few impossible strokes of the pen, as would have been done, on the English stage ; but now came the question how it was to be sent to the absent gentleman.

Here the funny attendant came in ! The Tea-house was supposed to be on the bank of a river which was represented by the stage, and as the lover was living at some distance away on the same river, what more natural than that she should suggest tying a somewhat large stone to the missive and throwing it into the water, so that it might be carried by the current to its destination, though how he was to know it was coming and be ready to receive it, should it not have sunk on the voyage, was not very apparent. However, the stone was attached to the letter and thrown out of the tea-house on to the stage, when a scene-shifter or his equivalent (who was supposed to be invisible) walked on and picked it up, and the curtain fell. This scene had occupied about an hour, and now came the turn of the " Joruri " singers, who, having strummed and howled for some ten minutes, appeared exhausted and gave the thing up as a bad job ; when the curtain on the opposite stage was raised, and the audience turned " right about face " in order to face it. This showed the advantage of the Japanese system, for had ordinary seating accommodation been provided, an arrangement of the kind would have been impossible.

The scene on the second stage was also that of a tea-house on the bank of a river, but it was in the centre instead of at one end as on the female side, and the architecture was more severe, while there were no flowers or creepers as in the case of the "real lady's" bower. In the tea-house sat a man, evidently dressed in his best suit, who, after a long monologue, also decided to write a letter, and as showing the method of Japanese writing, the pose adopted and the materials employed, the scene was to me very interesting. I could, however, have written several letters while he was writing one; and before he had finished, the super (again supposed to be invisible) walked on to the stage, laid down the letter with the stone attached, and withdrew. After it had been there for some minutes the young man looked up from his writing, saw the *billet-doux* floating on the boards, realised at once what it was, seized a long bamboo which conveniently happened to be there, walked calmly down the steps leading to the water and brought the sweet document ashore. He did not kiss it, as a lover would probably have done in Europe, as kissing is not in vogue or generally understood in connection with love-making in Japan—so I have been told—but he took it up to his table, opened it out, read it carefully from the bottom upwards, had a great deal to say about it, and then sat down to finish his own communication, or possibly to add a P.S.—"Yours duly received, and contents noted."

We had now got nearly to the end of the second hour, and although the drama appeared very interesting to the audience generally, it began somewhat to pall upon me, and I intimated to my guide my intention to return to my hotel. He begged me to stay and see what the father would do when he came; but as he could not say how many hours it might be before he arrived, and as even then the plot would apparently only have been in its infancy, I decided to leave, much to his regret—and I believe that when he

had accompanied me to my hotel he returned to see more, for he certainly knew more about it the next day than had transpired while I was present.

This Company was, I believe, the first in Japan in which the two sexes acted together, and possibly the idea of the two stages was a concession to popular opinion; but by this time no doubt such performances have become a matter of course, and one stage suffices for their combined efforts.

OPIUM.

THERE is in Johore Bahru a building which few are privileged to enter, but which I had the opportunity of visiting, and that is the Opium Farm ; but one must not be misled by the name, which does not refer to the growing of the poppy nor to the extraction of its juice, but merely to the preparation of the drug for smoking purposes.

For the word " Farmer " in this part of the world does not convey the idea of an agriculturalist, but is applied to a person to whom a concession has been granted, for a valuable consideration ; and Opium, Spirit, and Pawnbroking " Farms " have long been the principal sources of revenue to the Island of Singapore and the Straits Settlements.

For some time past the proposed abolition of opium smoking has been a burning question in China and the Far East, and a Special Commission having recently been appointed in the Straits Settlements to give it consideration, it may not be out of place or season for me to refer to it.

The countries in which the opium poppy has been principally cultivated are India, China, Persia, and Asia Minor, although attempts have been made, and to some extent it has been grown, elsewhere ; and its use as a narcotic dates back for many centuries. In China it had been produced in small quantities for a long time ; but towards the close of the eighteenth century the quantity imported thither from India by the British was so large that its use became a menace, and it was forbidden by the Emperor

under no less a penalty than death. The importation not only continued, however, but increased, and the protests of the Chinese Government being unavailing, the Commissioner in 1839 caused the British hulks which served as depôts to be destroyed, and with them some 20,000 chests of opium, valued at the time at about £2,000,000. Even this did not stop the trade, which, notwithstanding Chinese official remonstrances, has continued to the present day.

During all this time, however, more opium was cultivated in China itself than was imported from India—indeed, some years ago other crops were neglected to such an extent, for the sake of opium growing, that a famine was the result, and even now there are districts in which it is the principal crop; all of which is quite in accordance with Chinese methods and quite Gilbertian in character!

I have never seen fields of opium poppies in bloom, though I have been told that the sight is a beautiful one—but I know that before the seed pods or capsules are plucked incisions are made in them, from which the juice flows; that when this juice is dried and is of a proper consistency, it is made up into large balls, in appearance very much like Dutch cheeses, and that in this form it is exported, and arrives at, among other places, Johore.

But it is not yet ready for use, and in the building I have referred to it undergoes the further necessary processes. The balls are placed in water in large coppers over fires, and are sprinkled during the process of boiling. The mass passes from one copper to a second, and then into filter cloths arranged in rows, through which it filtrates into pans beneath, where it settles, and as it cools becomes of thick consistency, very much resembling treacle. When cold, it is put into tins, and the tinned opium (which is worth about £80 per tin) remains in store for four months before it is sent out to the licensed dealers in various places, including Singapore, where, as I have already said, it has formed in the past an important item of income.

An Opium Pipe resembles a flute, the bowl being inserted in an opening at about the point where that instrument is blown. I have a fine specimen, which I bought at a Chinese Store for the sale of unredeemed pledges; it is of polished black-wood with silver and enamelled mounts, and, without the bowl, has always been taken at first sight for a flute, by those to whom I have from time to time shown it.

I have looked into several so-called opium dens and have found them to be particularly dirty and uninviting places; but an opportunity presented itself to me to see opium smoking under more favourable conditions on the occasion of a voyage on a French steamer from Hong Kong to Shanghai. An elderly Chinese gentleman, accompanied by his wives, children and a retinue of servants, was among the passengers, and it was his practice every morning to visit the Smoking Cabin at a certain hour, his entrance being the signal for the exit of the ship's officers who otherwise monopolised it. I noticed this twice, and on the third morning I took my book and seating myself in the cabin awaited his arrival. The officers withdrew as before on his entering, and the old gentleman, seating himself on the settee, produced a brass tobacco pipe of the ordinary Chinese description, and quietly smoked the small quantity of tobacco which it contained. Meantime one of his servants had laid upon a stool before him an opium pipe, a lamp, what appeared to be a needle, and a small tin of opium.

Having finished his tobacco my friend, if I may so call him, took from the tin upon the point of the needle a small quantity of opium about as large as a grain of rice, and proceeded to roast it over the lamp. He then lay down upon the settee, rested his head upon the bolster, and by a dexterous movement passed the drop of heated opium through the small hole in the top of the bowl of the pipe, and heating the bowl itself over the lamp he sucked contentedly at it for about a minute, and then closed his eyes

and remained quiet for some ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, when he rose and retired. The preparation took much longer than the actual process of smoking, and the scent of the burning opium was, to my mind, not unpleasant, although it evidently did not agree with the ship's officers.

Noticing that I took an interest in his proceedings the Mandarin (for such I afterwards found he was—though of what class I did not know, not being sufficiently acquainted with distinctive colours and buttons) the next day suggested to me by signs (for we had no language in common) that I should try a few whiffs; but apart from the fact that I do not care to smoke other people's pipes—opium or otherwise —the weather was not sufficiently propitious for me to take any liberties of the kind with myself, and I respectfully declined the offer.

Incidentally I may mention, though it has nothing to do with opium, that the Mandarin was always accompanied by another Chinese gentleman dressed in a costume of Oxford blue silk, who came in with him, went out with him, and during his stay in the Smoking Cabin sat facing him, without at any time exchanging a word with him; and while the opium smoker was sleeping off the effect of the drug I endeavoured to get into conversation with his mysterious companion. I first tried in English, asking him who the old gentleman was, to which he replied "Yes," and as this was not very promising, I fell back upon French, being upon a French vessel, but with no better result, when he rather surprised me by saying a few words in German. Having thus found a medium for conversation, I learned that he was an Admiral, who had been for some time at a German port, and had spent a few days in England; that the Mandarin, whom he was accompanying, had been called by the Emperor to Pekin, that he was convoying him from Canton to Shanghai, where he would pass him on to another official, and that he was accompanied by his wives, children and servants, because this was the usual practice under

such circumstances. When I asked him why His Excellency has been called to Pekin he drew his hand across his throat, at the same time emitting a gurgling sound, and left me to form my own conclusions!

THE EMPRESS VICTORIA JAWI PRANAKAN THEATRICAL COMPANY.

A CIRCUMSTANCE which frequently came under my notice in Eastern cities was that, as a rule, the European residents took little or no interest in the manners and customs of the native inhabitants, and saw or knew less of what seemed to me the interesting features of native life than the casual visitor who went about with his eyes and his mind wide open, losing no opportunity of investigating local practices and witnessing local scenes.

I do not wish to imply that all casual visitors go about with their eyes open, for I have often met travellers who knew little or nothing of some of the places they had visited beyond the names of the hotels at which they stayed, the club where they may have been asked to tiffin, and one or two of the principal sights usually brought under the notice of the personally conducted tourist.

Nor, on the other hand, do I mean to say that no European residents take any trouble to inform themselves upon such matters; but the majority of them appeared to me to be too much concerned in their business affairs and personal European surroundings and amusements, and it struck me also that in many instances there was a certain amount of affectation, real or assumed, in their ignorance.

This condition of affairs was brought home to me one evening at Singapore, under the following circumstances:

I was sitting in the Billiard Room of my hotel passing

the time away by watching a game in which the present Sultan of Johore, then Tonku Mal Kota, or Crown Prince, was taking part, when a friend rushed in and told me that he had just seen a procession of a Hindû god in the Brass Bassa Road, and knowing my penchant for Temples and native proceedings generally, thought I might like to follow it.

To jump into rickshas with this object was but the work of a few minutes, and we started off at a good pace to overtake the procession. It had, however, obtained a good start, and when we had gone about a mile it became evident that we had missed it ; and we were upon the point of giving up the chase and going back, when a bright light some distance ahead led my friend to the assumption that we were approaching a temple, doubtless the destination of the worshippers. We accordingly pressed on, the lights grew brighter and brighter, and following the reflection we ultimately arrived at a large building, brilliantly illuminated —but it was not a Temple, for over the entrance was an inscription which, translated, read :

The Empress Victoria
JAWI PRANAKAN Theatrical Company
of Penang.

and a door-keeper handed me a leaflet headed :

HAWAI MAJLIS
Main Baharu,
Daiam Per-Mainan Kita Ini-Lah Yang First Class
WAYANG BUSI,

and upon the strength of the words " First Class " I suggested that, as an alternative to the procession of the elusive god, we should patronise the Empress Victoria Theatrical Company.

We took tickets, and entering, found ourselves in a spacious theatre with one gallery running round it, as in a Chinese theatre.

This gallery was packed with Malay women and children, presenting a truly kaleidoscopic effect, for the women of this particular race are addicted to bright colours, and every possible tint, shade, and hue appeared to be represented on this occasion, blues, yellows, reds, mauves, and greens being predominant, silk being the material most *en évidence* and self-colours apparently the fashion of the period. The children squatted down at the feet of the women sitting in the front row, and witnessed the performance through the railings.

The body of the auditorium was reserved for men, and was equally crowded; but by means of a small gratuity to the doorkeeper, and thanks to the courtesy of certain members of the audience, good seats were found for us, from which we had an excellent view of the stage, although I certainly found the peculiar odour of the skin of my neighbours at times somewhat overpowering.

The production was a musical one in the nature of an Operetta, and had something to do with Fairyland, wherever that may be; but the orchestra consisted of a single instrument, in appearance something between a lute and a hurdy-gurdy with some six strings, played cello-fashion with a bow; the player, resplendent in a tall gilt hat of the Parsee type, and spectacles with heavy gold rims, sitting on the left side of the stage with the instrument resting upon his knee.

The performers wore gorgeous costumes, and the performance consisted mainly of long recitatives and scenas, interspersed with occasional choruses, the music being based upon a theme of some eight or ten bars, which varied in each scene and was repeated *ad nauseam*, either as a solo or by the singers in unison or in harmony; and on the whole the entertainment, though picturesque and even artistic was, from a European musical standpoint, undoubtedly monotonous. It appeared, however, to give great satisfaction to the audience, and in its way, was certainly interesting.

My friend explained to me that "Jawi Pranakan" had no theatrical or musical meaning, but was merely the name given to a mixed native race peculiar to the Straits Settlements, one or other of the parents having been a Malay; but as to what was going on, whether such performances were common, to what extent the cultivated Malays were a musical people, and other general questions, he was unable to give me any information, for although he had spent the greater part of his life in Singapore, and spoke and understood the Malay language perfectly, he had never before been in a Malay theatre, and did not even know of the existence of that in which we thus accidentally found ourselves.

This incident goes to show that although ridicule is frequently cast upon the tales of casual visitors to Eastern cities, and the opinions and conclusions which they form, they frequently have opportunities which do not in the ordinary course present themselves to residents, or of which residents do not as a rule avail themselves, and sometimes, like other proverbial outsiders, see the most of the game!

THE HUMOURS OF QUARANTINE.

QUARANTINE, as most people know, implies isolation from the world at large, owing to an outbreak of infectious disease on board a vessel, or the existence of some epidemic at the port whence it sails, or at some other port at which it may touch during the voyage ; and the word itself conveys that this isolation was originally for a period of forty days.

In Eastern countries, where climatic conditions, the habits of the people, and the absence of sanitary arrangements made the outbreak of an epidemic a matter of the most vital importance, drastic measures were imperative under such circumstances ; and to a more limited extent this is still the case both in the Near and Far East, in the Tropics, on the shores of the Mediterranean, and in countries inhabited principally by Latin races.

Consequently in such directions the old rules still obtain, though in most cases in a modified form, the conditions of segregation having been improved and the period of isolation shortened ; but in more temperate latitudes, among more civilised races, and owing to the great advances made in medical science during the last fifty years, the system has undergone an entire revolution to the great advantage of travellers and without prejudice to the community.

Thus, while extensive Lazarettos still exist in many places, notably in the East, at Mediterranean ports, and in South and Central America, in Great Britain they have been done away with altogether, and a much more rational,

reasonable, and at the same time equally effective, system has been introduced.

This is not, however, the place to discuss the ethics of Quarantine, nor the arrangements of Lazarettos ; and it is quite early enough for a traveller to interest himself in the general question, or to consider the arrangements of any particular country, when he sees the yellow flag hoisted, or learns that on board the ship in which he may find himself yellow fever, small pox, cholera, plague, or some equally infectious disease has shown its symptoms. In many cases this information is withheld from him as long as possible ; but on large ocean liners, and when the passengers are of races not too " easily cast down by adversity," the Captain usually takes the earliest opportunity of mentioning the matter in order that the necessary precautions may be taken, and that the passengers themselves by being forewarned may be, in their own interests, forearmed.

I have had several experiences of the kind, and may here mention incidentally that I have been quarantined for yellow fever, small pox, and cholera ; have been disinfected for rinderpest, and on various occasions fumigated, vaccinated, syringed, and otherwise tormented in connection with one or other of these and kindred complaints ; while when staying at a leading hotel at Sydney, N.S.W., which was rather close to a plague-infected area I was in daily dread that the hotel itself would be declared " unclean," which would have meant enforced imprisonment for an indefinite period for all the visitors and staff in the building at the time, and possibly difficulty in obtaining provisions.

Now, one would wonder how in connection with such a subject it would be possible to find anything humorous ; but to one not easily alarmed and prepared to take things as they come, there are circumstances even in such matters which may be made so.

When I speak of Quarantine I include the general application of the Public Health Acts, and one of my earliest

experiences was at Corfu, at a time when cholera was prevalent. I was on an Austrian-Lloyd steamer, having left Brindisi the previous night, and after breakfast in the morning the passengers were ordered to assemble on deck and form into line, and a pretty heterogenous party they were. At the gangway stood two officials, one of whom was, I was informed, a Doctor, and the other a member of the Staff of the Port Office of Health ; and to the latter was handed by the ship's purser, from a respectful distance, a list of the passengers, who then had to file slowly before them, each one putting out his tongue as he passed and paying one silver drachma, or a franc as its equivalent, (which he placed in a bag at the end of a stick held out to him for the purpose) as an examination fee. From a few words which passed between a passenger not far ahead of me and the Doctor I gathered that the latter was an Englishman, but in any case he spoke English fluently ; and feeling rather facetious at the moment I suggested to him when I showed him my tongue that the action did not seem complete unless I spread out my hand from my nose or in other words " took a sight " at him. His reply was that I was at perfect liberty to do so, if I put an extra franc in the bag—and I came to the conclusion that he had rather the better of me in the joke ! Another conclusion which I formed, however, was that this perfunctory performance had " shekels " rather than " cholera " in view.

While I am speaking of Greece it occurs to me that many years after this, when cholera was again raging I had rather an amusing experience. I had had business to attend to in other parts of the country, and at length reached Athens, whence it was my intention to cross to Alexandria ; but I was somewhat discomposed to learn that no boats were then touching at Piræus, and that it might be necessary for me to retrace my steps as far as Naples or even Genoa in order to cross the Mediterranean. However, my business in Athens took me some time ; and meanwhile, with the

kind assistance and co-operation of Messrs. Thomas Cook & Son, I was endeavouring to find my way out of the difficulty, and was ultimately able to arrange that a steamer of the Khedivial Line from Constantinople to Alexandria would lie off Piræus on the voyage and send a boat for me to the Quarantine Station, if I could arrange to be deposited there.

Some little time previously I had met on the steamer to Patras a young German, who had been touring through Italy, and afterwards visited Greece with the same idea as myself that he could get across thence to Egypt ; but like myself he found himself stranded in Athens, and I suggested to him that he should join me, which he readily consented to do.

Certain formalities with the Authorities were necessary to enable us to be landed at the Quarantine Station, but in this part of the world Backsheesh plays an important part in negotiations, and this was duly arranged by my Dragoman, accompanied by whom, when the evening arrived, my companion and myself with our luggage, drove down to the Port ; and a boat having been chartered we were rowed out to and deposited there. I had arranged with the Dragoman that the boat should lie off until we were fetched, as I did not wish to pass the night in such a spot in the event of the vessel not arriving in good time ; promising to put an extra " tip " for himself and the boatmen in a given place, whence it could be fetched by them after our departure.

We had not been on shore very long before the steamer appeared ; we waved our handkerchiefs to show that we were awaiting it, and soon had the satisfaction of seeing a boat lowered and rowing towards us. On its arrival we got our luggage on board without delay. I held up a piece of newspaper containing the promised solatium, placed it under a stone at the spot agreed upon, and we promptly made our way to the ship, while the Dragoman was equally promptly on his way to the station, whence he and the boatmen waved us a parting salute.

We were at the Station about half-an-hour, and I do not suppose anyone ever spent a shorter time in Quarantine —I certainly never did!

Rinderpest is probably one of the last diseases which one would think could be conveyed by human beings, but the authorities in South Africa think otherwise. I was on my way by rail from Bloemfontein to Port Elizabeth, when the train drew up at Norval's Pont Station and the carriages were boarded by officials who informed us that we were to be subjected to disinfection. Each of them was provided with a tin of diluted Condy's Fluid and a piece of flannel, and the disinfection consisted in wiping the bottoms of the legs of the male passengers' trousers, their boots, and the soles thereof with the mixture. There were no ladies in the carriage in which I was travelling, so I cannot say how they were treated; but there was a Kaffir woman among the coloured people (for whom separate carriages are provided) with whom I heartily sympathised.

Two temporary sheds had been erected on the station premises in which were baths, or rather, if I understood correctly the official of whom I asked information, there was one large bath in each, containing a mixture of Condy's Fluid and water, and in this all coloured travellers had to wash themselves before being allowed to proceed. Decency was so far considered, that there was a separate shed for each sex, but in each case all had to go through the process of disinfection in the same water at the same time (as far as the capacity of the bath would admit), such clothing as they wore (and some of them wore very little) being meanwhile fumigated.

Some time before we had reached this particular station the coloured woman I have mentioned had entered the train, and her appearance had attracted my attention. She was dressed in a white muslin skirt and blouse, wore a stylish flower-bedecked hat, white stockings and patent leather shoes, her hands were protected by kid gloves of a light

shade, and she carried a smart parasol. A fellow traveller whom I asked for information as to this apparition, assumed that she was the wife of some well-to-do coloured tradesman, and she certainly appeared to be in a position far above that of the other coloured passengers with whom she was compelled by the regulations to travel.

In common with several other passengers I was decidedly sorry for the poor creature when, despite her protestations, she had to enter the women's shed and take a bath with the rest while her smart clothing was purified; though the Afrikanders treated the occurrence as a matter of course, and an official with whom I entered into conversation said that the instructions were that all coloured people were to be thus disinfected, and they could not make any exceptions.

South America has long been known for its drastic applications of Health Acts, directed not so much towards the sanitation of its own cities or the cleanliness of its own inhabitants, as against incomers by sea likely to bring disease from one republic to another, and on the East Coast more particularly those coming from Brazil, as I once experienced; having had a very narrow escape from Quarantine at Monte Video when reaching that port from Rio de Janeiro.

Flores Island, the Lazaretto Station of Monte Video, had a very bad reputation, was a most exposed, insanitary, and generally objectionable place of residence, rumour having it that if one was not suffering from infectious disease on landing it would not be long before one contracted it, unless one's mind became unhinged in the meantime; so that it was with intense satisfaction that after long arguments and explanations the Health Officer (and your health officer in South America is a most important and touchy personage) gave us pratique, and the vessel was allowed to proceed.

But I was not so fortunate in a voyage from Colon to Pauillac on a French steamer, the *Labrador* of the "Compagnie Transatlantique" Line, for on reaching Carupano

(a port of Venezuela) pratique was refused, the passengers were unable to go ashore, and learned to their dismay that one of the crew had died that morning of yellow fever. Into the circumstances of the long voyage thence to Europe, with the dread of a serious outbreak hanging over us, how passengers who would have landed at Santander (our first Spanish port) were deterred by the prospect of twenty-one days' Quarantine, and decided to go on, and how all were pre-occupied with the idea of the possible fate awaiting them at Pauillac, I need not enter. Suffice it to say that on arrival at that port we were ordered into Quarantine for three days, and against the order there was no appeal.

It turned out, however, that a considerable amount of humour was to be extracted from the occurrence; though the start was a bad one, for the French and Spanish ladies, who had donned their best in the expectation of proceeding straight to Bordeaux and having a "gay time" there, simply sat round the music room and wept, when they learned that they would have to go into the Lazaretto at Pauillac instead.

It was not unamusing, however, to see them, thus gaily clad, march with dressing bags or other light impedimenta in their hands, up the long avenue from the entrance gates, where rooms were allotted, to the building to which they were consigned; nor was it less so to see the male passengers toiling along with heavier articles, especially when one knew that many among them held important positions in diplomatic, political, or mercantile circles, and were not accustomed to do much hard work for themselves. But no assistance was forthcoming, and the procession was not in itself a cheerful one; while a broiling sun poured its rays upon the devoted band and did not improve matters.

When the bad news was first made known on board, bags were served out to each passenger in which all soiled linen had to be placed; the luggage was examined to see that this had been done, and no one was allowed to take

on shore more luggage of any kind than he or she could carry.

The Station had not been occupied for two years, the rooms were dusty and frowsy, the floors suffering from dry rot, the furniture was of the meanest and scantiest, the crockery-ware lilliputian in its dimensions, the sheets coarse and damp; and altogether the outlook was not a cheerful one. It was, however, enlivened at luncheon time by the airs taken upon themselves by the waiters, who evidently regarded us as so many prisoners. My wife and myself formed two of a little party of eight who secured a table in a secluded and comfortable part of the dining room; but we had scarcely taken our places when two of the party came to grief owing to their chairs going through the rotten floor, and the laugh that followed put all in good humour. At our first meal the service was bad, the viands insufficient, and the wine inferior, but our overbearing waiter had such a bad time that his demeanour was entirely changed, and for the remainder of our detention we had no ground for complaint.

I am not going to describe our daily proceedings; some of us were gay, many were cast down, but there was no further outbreak of fever; and on the third day orders were issued that the passengers were to proceed to the entrance lodge, and there claim their bags of soiled linen, which had in the meantime been fumigated; flannel, silk, and leather having suffered materially in the process. As this was preparatory to our release good humour prevailed, and it was indeed amusing to see grave and reverend signors, men of influence and position, toiling up the pathway with a bag or sack of soiled linen on their shoulders—indeed it so upset the gravity of some of the sufferers that they threw their bags on the grass and sitting down upon them laughed heartily at the position in which they found themselves.

All that had to be done after lunch was to settle up for our restaurant expenses, for although we had free lodging, board was not included, and each victim received a card to

show that he had paid, without which pass he could not have left the extablishment.

Many complained bitterly of this exaction (which amounted to ten francs per person per day exclusive of wine and service), and it was greatly at variance with another experience of the kind which befell me some years later, and to which I will now shortly refer.

I was on a voyage to Australia on board the P. & O. steamer *India,* and the day after leaving Colombo the saloon passengers were alarmed to hear, from a statement made by the Captain after dinner, that a serious case of small pox had shown itself. The ship's doctor had been isolated with the patient, to whom he was devoting his attention; but fortunately there were other medical men among the passengers, who had kindly undertaken to vaccinate all on board, for which there was an ample supply of lymph; and if on the following morning ladies would attend at a certain cabin, and gentlemen at a certain other cabin, this necessary precautionary measure would be taken.

Proceedings commenced accordingly the next morning and continued throughout the day, but in the majority of cases the lymph "did not take," though whether this was due to its quality or its age was not made known; the patient with the ship's doctor and two stewards were landed at the Quarantine Station at Albany, the vessel proceeded to Port Adelaide where a fresh supply of lymph was obtained, which did not seem to be much more effective than the original stock, and ultimately we reached Melbourne, for which port most of the passengers were bound.

What was our horror, however, to learn that pratique would not be granted, that the vessel had to return, some thirty odd miles to the Heads, and land all Melbourne passengers there for fifteen days' quarantine.

The "Heads," as they are called, are two capes, one on either side of the entrance to Port Philip Bay, Point Lonsdale

being on the Geelong side, and Point Nepean, where the Quarantine Station is placed, on the opposite side, with the narrow entrance to the bay between them. The town nearest to the latter is Sorrento, a summer seaside resort whence on this occasion an enterprising restaurant keeper brought a stock of crockery, glass, provisions, wines, and all other necessaries for the creature comforts of the passengers, not forgetting a staff of waiting maids who performed their duties admirably. I may mention to the credit of the P. & O. line that all this was done at the expense of the company, and the passengers themselves were not called upon to make any payment, except for wines, spirits, and mineral waters.

In due course landing was commenced and I managed to get away in the first boat. It was evidently to be a case of " first come, first served," and notwithstanding dressing bags, suit-cases, and other impedimenta, everyone hurried forward to the best of his ability, and I was fortunately well to the front ; and having, on arrival at the building reserved for saloon passengers, secured a good room, I locked the door, put the key in my pocket, and awaited events.

These were not long in happening, for the accommodation available was soon occupied, and later comers had to go to another building, not half so comfortable, which was particularly unfortunate for those accompanied by ladies, whose progress had been consequently somewhat retarded.

I was surprised at the lack of administrative control ; but ultimately everyone had settled down, and things took a regular course, one of the first events being the medical examination of all the passengers, and their vaccination in cases where previous incisions had proved ineffective. Some were fortunate enough to escape after only a few day's detention, the majority got away after about ten or twelve days, but many, including myself, had to remain the full fifteen days. I had been medically examined ten times and vaccinated four times, and it was in vain that I tried to

impress upon the medical officer that it was obvious I was immune; he could not or would not see matters from my point of view, and there I had to remain.

While on board the *India* a lady passenger who had declined to allow her arm to be disfigured by vaccination marks, had obtained some lymph and had vaccinated herself on the calf of her leg; she said it had been effective; but as, when we reached the Quarantine Station, she refused to submit her leg to the inspection of the doctor, she also had to remain for the full term.

Amusements were rather lacking on this occasion, much time was taken up in writing letters to the *Melbourne Argus*, calling attention to our sad plight and to the arbitrary way in which we were being treated, communications to the various authorities were also made direct and through relations and friends in Melbourne; but nothing came of any of them. Day after day the medical examinations and the process of vaccination continued until many, like myself, declined to submit to further indignities, and resolved to "do our time." Day after day our numbers were gradually reduced as discharges were made, and all that was left to those who "did not take" was to make the best of a bad job.

At one extremity of Point Nepean was a Leper Station, in which an unfortunate victim of that foul disease was at the time isolated, and the passengers were warned not to go there, though I believe several did so. One day when I was walking in this direction with a well-known resident of Melbourne we came across a large brick furnace, and having examined it critically from all points of view, we came to the conclusion that it was used for the purpose of burning the bodies of those who might die in Quarantine, or at least any lepers who might come to an end there; and we were greatly overawed, but I fear also somewhat disappointed, when we ultimately found that it was only used for burning the clothing and bedding of infected persons.

The Quarantine Station in itself was not uninteresting,

the grounds extended across the promontory from Port William Bay to Bass Strait, the intervening country being in the nature of what is known as "Bush," where trees, vegetation and animal life were new to me; and through the Bush we wandered to the open sea of Bass Strait, where we bathed or collected curious shells and marine specimens, frequently losing our way on the return journey, which much enhanced the pleasure and excitement of the expedition.

One Australian passenger had declined to go into the official buildings, and had ordered a tent, a "billy," and other requisites from Melbourne, which were promptly sent, the youth who brought them remaining as his attendant. Between them they made a clearing in the bush, rigged up the tent, came in daily for provisions, and lived a typical squatter's life, in which those who could find their way there participated to the extent of a whiskey and soda whenever they cared to pay him a visit.

Another from Birmingham amused himself by shooting from the end of the jetty at the penguins which darted by just under the surface of the water, until in deference to a general protest he substituted a target for the purposes of his revolver practice.

On the whole the detention was a very slow, while at the same time a very vexatious, experience. It upset all my arrangements for visiting the other Australian States, Tasmania and New Zealand, and I had in many cases to reverse the routes which I had laid down; and having my notes before me, I give the following figures incidentally, which will show that travelling is not always comfort and relaxation, as many imagine it to be:—

Days at Sea	83
Days on Land	60 (including 15 days in Quarantine).
Hours travelling by rail...	220 (including 10 nights).
Medically examined ...	10 times.
Vaccinated	4 ,,
Effects fumigated ...	3 ,,
Personally disinfected ...	twice.

第一三一號

英國人內地旅行免狀

姓名　ジョージ、シー、モーラント氏
Mr. George C. Morant.

身分　保險者

寄留又ハ發程地名　神戸オリエンタルホテル

右ハ明治二十七年十月二十日ヨリ向參月間帝國內地旅行ノ儀差許候事

明治二十七年十月二十日

兵庫縣知事　周布公平

JAPANESE PASSPORT.

(See Article—"A Japanese Coaling Station.")

A JAPANESE COALING STATION.

THE time was not altogether opportune for a visit to Japan, then in the throes of its war with China; the regular mail steamers had been taken off or ran with great irregularity and the only way in which I could get across from Shanghai to Kobé was by means of a trading steamer, in which accordingly I sailed—a solitary passenger.

We passed safely over the Woosung Bar, or "Heaven-sent Barrier," on which at the time a German steamer was aground; and on the second day sighted the outlying islands of Japan, some softly wooded, others rocky and sterile, but all producing beautiful effects in the sunrise.

Slackening speed near one of these islets we took on board the pilot (and it was perhaps somewhat disappointing to find that he was not a Jap but a Dane); and continuing our course we entered, about mid-day, the Bay of Shimonoseki, and bearing to the right (I suppose I ought to use more nautical language, but refrain) we anchored off the town of Moji. This town lies on the side opposite to that which gives its name to the Bay and which has become historical through the bombardment to which it was subjected in 1864 by European and United States men-of-war, an occurrence which no doubt first impressed the Japanese with the knowledge that in naval and military matters they were somewhat behind Western standards.

Moji is a coaling port, and is the outlet for the coal of the Miiki mines at Kuchuotsu, with which it is in railway communication. This coal competes keenly with that of Takashima, which is shipped at Nagasaki; but as far as I could judge there is very little difference between them. Both are very dusty, but the dust is damp and heavy, and consequently does not rise like that from British coal; and both give off a dense black smoke, by which the presence of a vessel may be detected at a very great distance, and when the vessel itself is absolutely invisible. It is therefore not altogether suitable for war vessels, but for merchant steamers it is quite as useful as and much cheaper than British coal, and its consumption has for many years past materially affected the sale of the latter at Eastern Coaling Stations.

The process of coaling a steamer is usually one producing to passengers the maximum of discomfort, and consequently one to be avoided at almost any cost; and when it is possible to go on shore passengers generally avail themselves of the opportunity and take care not to return until the process is over. But it was not possible to do so at Moji, for it was not a treaty port, and without a passport it would not only have been injudicious, but also perhaps dangerous to have attempted to land. Even had I desired to do so the following mysterious telegram, which was handed to the Captain who passed it on to me, would have deterred me:

Address: Sawayama—Bakan.

Given in at Sanomiya.

"Murassie go with launch boat board 'Glenartney' and see Captain tell Mr. Morant cannot land without passport."

Now I had no letter of introduction to anyone at Sanomiya, and did not even know where the place was, while as far as I was aware there was only one firm in Japan who knew that I was on board the *Glenartney*. I concluded that in some way or other the message must have come from them, and that some development had

taken place in connection with the China-Japanese War, which led them to think it necessary to give me this caution; unless it was intended for the Captain and not for me at all.

I afterwards found that the message did come from the firm in question, was intended for me, and was due to a misapprehension; but at the time it certainly seemed somewhat mysterious, gave rise to many comments and conjectures on board, and placed me in a somewhat false position. Indeed, the Captain evidently came to the conclusion that I was a military or political spy, or someone who might in some other way get him into difficulties, and he kept his eye on me accordingly for the rest of the voyage, although I had given him an undertaking that I would not attempt to leave the vessel before reaching Kobé.

But to return to the coaling! The lighters with the coal having been brought alongside were followed by boats conveying the coal-heavers—male and female; for in Japan this work was then largely done by women, who took their part in it with an earnestness far surpassing that of their co-workers of the opposite sex, and with a gaiety elsewhere unknown in connection with this somewhat arduous labour.

The men having rigged up a series of light stages from the deck of the steamer to within about four feet of the lighter, the women on the latter commenced to shovel the coal into small wicker baskets, very much resembling the hats which some of them wore. These were passed up, hand over hand, by the men on the staging to the workers on the deck, by whom the coal was thrown down into and disposed in the bunkers. The women wore the usual dark blue or grey kimonos of the working classes, but the men displayed a great variety of costume, from the blue coolie pants and jacket, and the blue kerchief round the head, to the semi-European morning coat with tight-fitting Jap trousers; while some considered a pair of short breeches, and not a few merely a loin cloth, as sufficient clothing for the occasion.

The promise of a fine day given by the early morning

was not fulfilled, for in the course of the afternoon a heavy storm blew up, and I was thankful that we were anchored at Moji instead of being under steam in the neighbouring sea of Gen-kai-nada. Under these altered circumstances the work flagged, and was ultimately discontinued until the following morning.

The Manager of the Coaling Agent, clad in tight Japanese trousers with Japanese socks outside, a long ulster overcoat, and a felt hat, stepped into his boat, while his assistant, dressed in a light tweed suit, but wearing Japanese sandals and holding up a paper umbrella, sat on his hams (Eastern fashion) in the stern with his knees up to his chin, presenting a distinctly Simian appearance. Such incongruous effects were noticeable in many other directions at the time, the yearning for European clothing being, in my opinion, one of the weakest points in the otherwise laudable march of progress then so conspicuous in Japan—for the style does not suit the general appearance and the usual low stature of the men, apart from which no European clothes can approach in artistic style the national costume so admirably suited to the pose and habits of the people.

I thought it fortunate indeed that the taste for European dress had, apparently, not extended to the opposite sex, at least not to members of the trading and working classes—for Japan without its smiling little women in their graceful kimonos, their immense obis (sashes), their pomatum plastered coiffures, and their wooden clogs, would be bereft of half its quaintness and charm.

And now I had an opportunity of observing some of the most humble class, not clad in silks and brocade, but in the coarsest materials ; not with elaborate coiffures, but their hair done up in a simple knot with what resembled a skewer passed through it, with bare or sandalled feet, and faces, hands, and legs more or less begrimed, but, nevertheless, dainty in appearance and cheerful as larks. For work having been suspended they swarmed over the deck, familiar

to a degree, and absolutely irrepressible, until unexpectedly the Captain put in an appearance.

Now the " Old Man " as he was familiarly called, behind his back, by officers and crew (and I believe that this is the title under which a Captain is usually known, as the ship's doctor is known as " Pills ") was a conscientious man, and an excellent navigator, but he was decidedly strict and apt to be severe ; and seeing these girls and women romping about, promptly summoned a Quartermaster, and upbraiding him for not obeying his standing orders as to such irregularities, ordered him to clear the deck of them forthwith. The Quartermaster was a man of 70 at least, had been at sea all his life, and had made many voyages with this particular Captain ; he was therefore alive to all sides of the question, and lost no time in fetching a rope's end with which he banged the deck, the bulwarks and the deck-houses, driving the irrepressible females, laughing, shouting, and screaming, gradually towards the companion ladder, down which they scrambled to the boats awaiting them below. Following them down and banging the ship's side with his rope's end as he went, he reached the platform as the last boat was filling, and glancing up to see that the Captain was not looking, he held up his right hand with his fingers outspread, uttered some cabalistic words, and returned to his duties on deck, while the women went off smiling.

During the afternoon I had plenty of opportunity for surveying my surroundings, and had noticed that between Moji and Shimonoseki ran a range of lofty hills, forming a barrier between the Bay and the celebrated Inland Sea beyond, the latter being approached through a narrow strait, through which, I afterwards learned, sets a current so strong as to make the passage not only dangerous, but almost impossible except at certain stages of the tide. I had also noticed, as our vessel swung with the tide that the hill-tops were being strongly fortified, which showed me that although

seeking glory and conquest abroad, Japan was not overlooking its home defences; and as I looked at the narrow strait it occurred to me that ultimately a cantilever bridge would be thrown across from the summits on either side, thus giving direct railway communication between Yokohama and Nagasaki. I have not yet heard that this has been done, but the height is such that it could be carried out without any inconvenience to shipping, and the economic advantages to be gained would probably fully warrant the outlay.

But the Bay of Shimonoseki itself was interesting, for large as it is, it was crowded with vessels, from the humble junk to the large transport and the merchant and passenger steamer, and I was glad to note that, as usual, the British flag predominated. My friend, the Danish pilot, however, said that if I wanted to see a unique sight I should get one of the watch to call me at daybreak the next morning, and come up on deck. I did so, and hurrying up, regardless of any possible misconception which might arise owing to the telegram episode of the previous day, I surveyed the scene. The weather had cleared. The glow of the rising sun was just becoming visible, and from nearly all the vessels in the bay rowing boats were putting off for the shore; and as I looked at the occupants through my binoculars, the cabalistic words of the old quartermaster came to my mind; but, like the fox in "Brer Rabbit" I "said nuffin," but returned to my cabin to finish my night's rest and prepare for the beauties of the Inland Sea.

A VISIT TO COCHIN CHINA.

After a voyage of two days and a half from Singapore, the *Oxus* arrived at Cape St. James at the mouth of the Saigon River, where we took a pilot on board and waited for the tide to rise and enable us to make our way up the stream.

It was nearly midnight when we started, and by the bright moonlight the low banks of the river and the thick jungle beyond did not afford a very enticing or interesting scene; but we passed along at a good speed, and in a few hours were moored alongside the quay of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes at Saigon.

Four o'clock in the morning is not a convenient hour at which to commence the exploration of a foreign town, whether colonial or otherwise, if one wishes to see anything of the ordinary life of the inhabitants—although I have frequently found that at an early hour in the day many types and things are to be seen with which it would otherwise be found impossible to become acquainted.

There were, indeed, many things of interest to be seen at the waterside at Saigon, and not the least interesting was the insight to be obtained in the early morning into sampan life.

The native boats or sampans are provided, as probably everybody knows, with painted eyes, and there are no doubt very few who have not heard the Chinaman's reason for

this in the somewhat hackneyed Pidjin-English saying, "No have eyes how can see go?"

The eyes undoubtedly give the craft a singular, if not sinister appearance; and during the daytime it seems extraordinary to notice that the boats are almost invariably manned by women (if the contradiction may be allowed), and that men are more or less conspicuous by their absence; but this is not the case at 4 a.m., for the men are then at home, the home being the sampan, the after-part of which has a bamboo or mat cover forming the private apartment serving as the kitchen, parlour and bedroom. The apartment is floored, the front is provided with curtains to let down at night, of furniture there is none, and a few cups and saucers and domestic utensils form the entire household equipment.

During the day the men work as coolies on shore, and the floating residences are in sole charge of the women and children, and it is remarkable to see how mere infants climb and crawl about the boats, the mothers apparently indifferent to the danger to which they are exposed.

The sampans ply for hire and are not to be confused with the flower boats at Canton, and they are, of course, less numerous here than at the important Chinese ports; but as their internal economy first came under my notice at Saigon I refer to them here.

Saigon is a well-constructed town with broad streets and boulevards thickly planted with trees which provide a welcome shade in so steamingly hot a place. The majority of the buildings appear to be of an official character, among them a post office (large enough for a town twenty times the size), open occasionally during the day for short periods, and forming in the intervals a cool place of retirement for numerous employees. Several well-frequented cafés and hotels adorn the principal thoroughfares; there is a handsome theatre and the town altogether is a representative French colonial one, providing a living for numerous officials and

calculated to make the lives of these estimable personages as comfortable and agreeable as possible, which is apparently the primary if not the sole object of such places.

As far as commerce is concerned there are some warehouses on the premises of the "Messageries Maritimes," and a few private godowns in the town; but at the time of my visit there were only four European firms (two of which were German) and no signs whatever of commercial activity.

On the other hand, however, there are fine Zoological and Botanical gardens, and a round drive of several miles over which officialdom takes its afternoon airing.

Cholon, the native capital, is some three miles from Saigon, and may be reached in about twenty minutes either by road or by steam tramway. The town is not so well constructed as Saigon, but it is intersected in all directions by broad canals crowded with substantial lighters laden with rice, and with less substantial but equally useful sampans. The population is almost entirely Chinese and Annamese, the two races being to a casual observer so much alike that it is difficult to distinguish between them; and the shops and street scenes resemble closely those in other towns where the Chinaman predominates.

I had an unexpected opportunity of visiting a high-class Annamese residence, and was much interested. Among my late fellow passengers on the *Oxus* was an Annamese gentleman, whose manners at table had attracted my attention as they had those of other passengers. He was the occupant of a special deck cabin, and apparently a personage of some local importance, so I made enquiries about him in Saigon, and learned that he held an important official position in Cholon, had just returned from a voyage round the world, was a most hospitable man, resided in a typical Annamese mansion, and would no doubt be pleased to see me if I called upon him.

I accordingly presented myself at his gates, and passing through the entrance gardens adorned with a rockwork

trophy (such as is common in Chinese houses and grounds), on which miniature forests, castles, pagodas and bridges were interspersed with figures of birds, dragons, and specimens of (to me) unknown human and animal forms, found myself in the inner courtyard, which was at the time thronged with what I took to be the élite of local society who had called to pay their respects to the traveller on his return to Cholon.

Facing me was a large open hall with overhanging roof supported on massive carved columns with a richly carved frieze, and seated on a couch in the centre, with his wife and daughter standing behind him, sat my late fellow passenger. Recognising me, he rose as I presented my card, and inviting me to be seated, offered me some refreshment in the shape of Chartreuse, of which he was very anxious that I should take at least half a tumblerful. After a short conversation he asked if I would like to see his hunting trophies and residence, and I started off on a personally conducted tour of inspection.

The hall to which I have referred contained a rich collection of cabinets, specimens of porcelain, weapons, feet, heads, and tusks of elephants, rhinoceroses, and other animals which had fallen to the gun of my host—but what interested me most was the wonderful carving of the columns and panels. Innumerable figures of men and women, the latter with loose bracelets on the wrists, but carved from the same solid piece (as in the Chinese ivory work), were interspersed with foliage, animals, and artistic designs, and the general effect was very beautiful.

I was then conducted across the courtyard from the reception hall to the private apartments, in which also all kinds of curios were displayed ; and having seen these, my attention was drawn to a modern French building in course of erection on one side of the quadrangle, in which my host informed me he proposed to take up his residence as soon as it was completed. His contact with the French residents of

Saigon had evidently led him to prefer a tasteless modern house to the artistic splendour of his native surroundings; and in it he has doubtless since given many of the entertainments for the sake of which (and occasional loans, usually remaining unpaid) he was said to be greatly courted by French official society.

FAN TAN.

THERE are certain instincts common to all human beings, which civilisation and education have branded as vices, and the exercise of which has been made a criminal offence; and that, in the case of some of these, such a course was warranted in the welfare of the community there can be no doubt.

In others, however, legislation in certain countries has, in the opinion of many, gone too far, and this is the case with "gambling," the definition of which expression is given in most dictionaries as "To play a game for money or other stake." Now, according to this, games at marbles by boys may be said to be gambling; and a raffle, so dear to young people, by means of which for an outlay of sixpence or a shilling there is a possibility of winning something of much greater value, or a lottery at a bazaar organised by some religious body, may be similarly classified. Of late years, too, so-called competitions have been instituted by newspapers and others, which, under whatever euphonious titles they may be known, are all more or less appeals to the gambling instinct; while "betting" and "sweepstakes," whether in connection with horse racing or other sports, clearly show the innate desire of the civilised human being to obtain much for a little.

State and Municipal Lotteries, long since abolished in Great Britain, are still common and well patronised in equally

civilised countries, as; for instance; Germany, Austria; and Holland ; while in France in every Casino the game known as " Petits Chevaux " is one of the principal attractions for the ordinary visitor, while saloons for Baccarat are provided for the wealthier classes or for those in whom the gambling instinct is more fully developed ; and thousands flock to Monte Carlo every year from all parts of the civilised world to indulge in " Trente-et-Quarante " or " Roulette."

From all this it is obvious that, despite legislation in certain countries, the instinct is one which cannot be eradicated ; and I take it that such legislation has been enacted to prevent the evils arising out of gambling proclivities, such as theft, suicide, and sometimes murder, and to protect the individual wanting in mental stamina, or self-control, from the excessive indulgence of the passion to the prejudice of himself, his family, his employer, and possibly that of the community at large, rather than with the idea of putting a stop to games or sports " played for money or other stake."

I have been referring so far to European races or races of European origin ; but among civilised Eastern peoples and native races in all parts of the world, the instinct has always existed, still exists, and will probably continue to exist for all time, while with the Chinese it is particularly developed ; and it is about their games of chance that I now propose to write.

The largest communities of Chinese in Great Britain are, I believe, to be found in London and Cardiff, and occasionally in both these places raids are made by the police upon so-called " Gambling Dens " frequented by celestials, who are mostly employed on board ship or as laundrymen. It is not my business to enquire why the police cannot leave them alone, and let them enjoy themselves in their own way ; but it is generally known that away from their native land they are a comparatively inoffensive people, and if at any time they make any disturbance or break any heads it is

usually among themselves, and the ordinary Chinaman does not think much of a broken head.

I have before me several cuttings from newspapers giving particulars of such raids, and I take from them the details of two Cardiff cases of comparatively recent occurrence.

In the first Wing Sang was charged with keeping a gaming house, and four other Chinamen with assisting him. One of them was seen to hang a board outside the house, the inscription on which, being interpreted, read "Wing Sang —Now is the time to play," and no less than twenty-three Chinese responded to the invitation. The police appeared, found them playing Fan Tan, and arrested them; all pleaded ignorance of the law, but the result was that the four principals were fined, Wing Sang in £20, the other three in £5 each; and the players were bound over.

In the second case thirty-three Chinamen were arrested, the principals Kow and Kang were fined £100 each and costs, or three months' imprisonment; an assistant named Chu £50 and costs, or one month; and two other assistants £10 each, or one month; and all were ordered to be deported as aliens, notwithstanding their plea that they were British subjects born in Hong Kong; while the players were bound over to be of good behaviour. The defence was that Fan Tan was the national game of China, and that none of them realised that they were committing a serious offence by playing it in Cardiff; but if any of the men hailed from Hong Kong they would have known that the game was not allowed there, as it is a British colony.

The two principal British colonies where the inhabitants are largely Chinese are Hong Kong and Singapore, and, gambling not being allowed, would-be players at the former place have to go to the Portuguese Island of Macao, a distance of some forty miles by sea, while from the Island of Singapore they cross over to the mainland, a distance of fourteen miles

from the city, once involving a tiring journey by carriage and horses to Kranji and thence by sampan across the Strait to Johore Bahru ; but now more easily accessible by railway and steam ferry.

Let us cross the Strait and visit the Casino at Johore Bahru, for to my mind it is just as well entitled to be called a Casino, as its more elaborate prototype at Monte Carlo. It is true that it will not in any way compare with that magnificent structure, for it is quite an ordinary building, and there has been no lavish expenditure over either its decorations or its furniture. Indeed, I should call it a somewhat sordid resort, and the players are not dressed in the latest fashions, nor do they play with gold pieces or notes ; while female gamblers are conspicuous by their absence, which is perhaps just as well, as some of those at the more elaborate and fashionable resorts are occasionally guilty of taking up the winnings of other people, and claiming them as their own.

The " Casino," or rather " Gambling Hall," at Johore consists of two floors, the upper being the more select, and reserved for the use of the better classes, who play a game called " Poh," for which there are several tables, and are provided with a lounge and smoking room in which they " sit out " when they want a rest or when funds run low. On the ground floor the poorer classes indulge in " Fan Tan " on simple mat-covered tables, and when I say the " poorer classes " I mean the small traders and workmen, for the Chinese are such inveterate gamblers that the passion pervades all grades of Society, and even the lowest will risk his few cents upon a game of chance if the opportunity presents itself.

And what are the games of " Poh " and " Fan Tan ? " Well, an hour at " Trente-et-Quarante " is to my mind very monotonous, and although there is more variety in " Roulette," it soon palls upon an ordinary mortal ; but both these games; and even the more puerile one of " Petits

Chevaux" are absorbing and interesting when compared with their Chinese equivalents.

"Poh" is played thus. Two circles are marked on the table, the inner one being divided into four sections with a space in the centre, the sections being marked with the Chinese figures representing 1, 2, 3 and 4; and a die, half red and half white having been inserted by the Banker in a groove on the top of a brass box over which a cover is then placed, the box is put on the space in the centre of the table and turned several times by one of the players. It is then opened by the Banker, and the number against which the red side appears wins, the players who have staked on this particular number receiving three times the amount of their stake less 10 per cent., and the Banker raking in the stakes on the losing numbers. As Bertram, the well-known exponent of card tricks, would have said: "Isn't it simple; isn't it marvellous!"

And "Fan Tan" is if anything still simpler. A square board divided by lines into four equal spaces, numbered respectively 1 to 4, is placed upon the table, and the players put their stakes in or against one of the squares. Opposite the Banker is a small pile of "Cash," and by "cash" I mean those particular Chinese brass coins (thus called) of infinitesimal value which, having a square hole in the centre, are threaded on silken cords, and are thus carried about in strings of one hundred, each string representing usually one-fifth of a dollar.

Placing an inverted cup over the pile of cash the Banker draws away an unknown number from the heap, then raising the cup withdraws sixteen of the coins and proceeds to count out the remainder in fours—and the recapitulation of Satu, Dua, Tiga, Ampah; Satu, Dua, Tiga, Ampah (the counting at Johore being in the Malay language), becomes as monotonous and wearing as the "Rien ne va plus" of Roulette. The last number counted—one, two, three or four as the case may be—becomes the winning number; and, as in "Poh"

the winner receives three times the amount of his stake, less ten per cent., and the Banker takes the sums staked on the losing numbers.

The minimum stake both at Johore and Macao is, I believe, ten cents, which now only represents about threepence, in consequence of the depreciation of silver in recent years; but I was unable to learn whether there is any maximum, or if so what the figure may be.

There are several other ways, than that which I have described, of playing Fan Tan; but they are all upon the same basis, and have the same object in view.

THE YOSHIWARA.

A RECENT telegram from Tokio to the London newspapers stated that "A fire broke out in the Yoshiwara quarter of the city to-day, and, fanned by the gale which was blowing, spread rapidly," and a few weeks previously a similar telegram had appeared announcing a conflagration in the Yoshiwara quarter of Osaka. In both cases many hundreds of houses were destroyed, and a large number of persons rendered homeless in the Yoshiwara quarter itself; while the fires spread beyond this district doing considerable damage to other properties.

To most readers these messages conveyed no meaning beyond that serious fires had occurred, though it is just possible that some may have been struck by the similarity in the name of the quarter; but to those who have visited Japan they conveyed more definite information as to the districts and the class of inhabitants principally affected, and what these were may perhaps be gathered from the following anecdote:—

An American and an Englishman were sitting in the Smoking Room of the "Imperial Hotel" at Tokio, one evening, when the former enquired of the latter whether he had visited the "Yoshiwara," and being answered in the affirmative, said:

"Well, then I guess you will understand how I was placed yesterday evening. I am travelling with my wife

and two daughters, and one of my girls told me that in the Guide Book she had read of the 'Yoshiwara' or 'City of Pleasure,' which, she said, was evidently the place where all the theatres and amusements were to be found, and she suggested that we should go and see it. I made enquiries of the hotel porter who said there was no difficulty about it, although the district was on the outskirts of the city, and at some distance from the hotel; that we could take Jinrikshas, and leaving them at the entrance to the quarter, one of the boys would act as a guide, and the others would take the vehicles round to the other side, and meet us when we came out. All this seemed satisfactory, so we arranged to go the same evening, and after dinner, off we went! But when we left the Jinrikshas we had not gone far before we found that we had been mistaken as to the nature of the quarter; we went up one street and down another; I looked at my wife and she looked at me, but I dared not look at my daughters. We just hustled along as fast as we could to get out of the place, and I did not breathe freely until we were once more in our rickshas and on the way home. I tell you, Sir, no more Yoshiwaras for me this journey!"

What then is the Yoshiwara? The name, originally applicable only to a particular district of Tokio, is now applied generally to those quarters of Japanese cities by means of which the authorities endeavour to concentrate what is euphemistically known in England as the "Social Evil." The idea of licensing particular houses is by no means unknown in Europe, and in certain cosmopolitan Eastern cities particular streets are allocated to women of different races or nationalities; but in Japan, where a spade is called a spade, and where Mrs. Grundy and the old women of Exeter Hall are unknown, the whole question was fully considered long ago, and a system of segregation adopted which, as far as I could learn, worked as satisfactorily as any arrangement of the kind could be expected to work.

When I visited the "Yoshiwara" in Tokio in 1894, the

enclosed district thus named covered many acres of ground, intersected by many broad and a few narrow streets, lined with houses more or less pretentious, many of them with two upper floors, an unusual feature of Japanese street architecture. In the evening these houses were brilliantly lighted up with paper lanterns, the streets were thronged with people—among them, singularly enough, many women—and the place was evidently a much frequented public resort.

The ground floors of the houses (which were raised some three feet above the ground) were open, the fronts being provided with wooden bars, and the visitors kept a short distance off by a barrier, reminding one of the dens or cages of menageries ; and behind the bars sat the girls, in some cases as many as fifteen or twenty in a row. Each house had its distinctive dress, red, blue, or brocaded kimonos of inferior or rich material and trimming, according to the taste and means of the proprietor, and the quality of the house. In the broader streets, where doubtless the rents were higher, most of the houses were extensive and the girls more or less elaborately clothed, while the narrower streets obviously provided for a different grade of society ; and all of the establishments had a distinctive name, such as " Kado-ibi," " Inamoto," " Ohiko," etc.

The girls sat in some cases on low seats, in others upon what appeared to be imported drawing room chairs, with low tables or stands in front of them ; and in nearly all cases they were provided with " hibachis " or metal braziers over which they warmed their hands, for it was winter time, and they were practically sitting in the open air. They were smoking the small native pipes, looking at themselves in mirrors, or sitting up in a listless manner, all of them apparently quite indifferent to the passers by, who stood at the barriers and peered at them through the bars, passing remarks about their appearance or dress as if they constituted an exhibition—as indeed they did—and to European eyes a most unparalleled one.

At the broad entrance to each establishment was a man who at frequent intervals raised his voice, calling attention to the excellent selection offered, and extolling the beauty of the ladies on exhibition. I asked my guide whether any reference was made to their virtues, but he did not understand me, at least he said he did not.

These door-keepers reminded me of rival showmen at a fair, and they made as much noise; but they were not the only noises which attracted my attention, for in one of the cages (if I may so call them), a man was busy striking the floor with a rope's-end, which Morita explained to me was to drive away evil spirits; while in another an attendant was rushing backwards and forwards with an immense magnet in the shape of a horse-shoe at least twelve inches across, from which he produced showers of sparks to bring good luck to the inmates of the house; and equally fanciful and noisy operations were going on in other directions.

How far the Yoshiwara met the circumstances or solved the difficulty which originally prompted its establishment, it is, of course, impossible for me to say or to judge; but I made enquiries concerning the institution of persons able to give me reliable information, and learned that it was under strict medical and general supervision, and was perfectly orderly (to me it appeared dull and prosaic), that the prices were regulated by the authorities; that disease was unknown; and that all the girls went there of their own free will and were not decoyed or inveigled thither, as in some other countries.

Most of them were, I was told, of the peasant class, and distress due to bad seasons, the death of a father or parents, or impoverishment from other causes, was the usual reason for taking to this mode of life, which, it is interesting to learn, was not considered derogatory in their particular circle. None were admitted without certain formalities being gone through with the authorities, and the consent of the head of the family for the time being (as, for instance, a brother in the case of a father's death), and

they entered into indentures for a term of years (usually three), receiving a fixed percentage of their earnings, and in some cases also a certain cash payment upon entry. Thus, a girl whose father had died in debt—which was considered a disgrace—was able to pay off the indebtedness, at least in part; and at the end of her term of service to retire with a small sum, which represented a dowry, and caused her to be sought after as a wife by the young men of her district.

The life could not have been a very happy one, but the inmates were allowed certain freedom within the boundaries; they celebrated some of the festivals so dear to the Japanese mind, and even (so I was told) elected every year a Queen of the Yoshiwara, who was carried through the district and installed with great ceremony and rejoicing, though what may have been the qualifications for this honour I could not learn.

I have said that at the end of her term a girl retired with a small sum in hand; but I was given to understand that in practice this rarely occurred; for although, in accordance with the law, accounts were kept, and regular entries made in the girls' books, her indebtedness usually exceeded the amount standing to her credit, charges being made for clothing, ornaments, etc., so that the balance was in favour of the keeper of the Kashi-Zashiki, and the poor Yoro had to prolong her service to pay it off.

Such abuses were, perhaps, to be expected in such a circle; but they did much to discredit what, in itself, was an honest attempt to meet an evil inevitable in large communities, in a manner suited to the spirit and views of the people; for in this as in other matters it is impossible to judge of the manners and customs of Eastern races by European, and more particularly by British standards. But they brought about their own reward, for under a progressive and more enlightened legislature, and possibly also under Western influences, an agitation was promoted

to obtain reconsideration of the question of inmates' debts to keepers, and in the year 1900 a new law was promulgated making it easier for the girls to obtain release from what was practically their bondage.

The movement was strongly supported by public opinion, and the matter was taken up by the Japanese branch of the Salvation Army, who made incursions into the Yoshiwara at Tokio, and explained the position to its inmates, not, however, without strong opposition on the part of the keepers and, I believe, also the application of a certain amount of force and mild rioting. But the result was that while, when I visited the place in 1894, there were said to be at least 20,000 inmates, the number has been very considerably reduced, and it is no longer regarded as one of the sights of the city.

At the same time the place and the system still exist, as is shown by the following telegram, dated Tokio, 19th March, 1912, which appeared in the London newspapers under the heading, "Sacrifice of Sisters":

"An American firm trading in Tokio found that one of their collectors, a Japanese, had embezzled £140; they gave him three days to refund the money. On the third day the culprit appeared with his father, who said that they could only raise £90 at once, but that within a few months they hoped to be able to pay the rest.

"Further details were then given, and from these it appeared that the family proposed to sell two of the culprit's sisters to the proprietor of a licensed house in the Yoshiwara for £90. There was also a third sister, but as she was still a few months under the legal age, the father explained they would have to wait for the balance of the money.

"The Director of the American firm pointed out forcibly that it would be better for the young man to go to prison than for his sisters to be sold, and in prison he now is.—(Reuter.)"

The subject is naturally a delicate one, and my only

reason for recording these notes is that no doubt before long, the Yoshiwara will have become, like many other things I have seen, only a name and a memory!

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